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M3a

UVic student has Malawi on the mind
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Thursday, April 6, 2006 | The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper | www.martlet.ca | Volume 58, Issue 28

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Chair results delayed again as Beames files legal appeal

ANTHONY FRATTAROLI GRAPHIC

by Briony Smith

A legal appeal by candidate Penny Beames has further delayed the results for the students' society chair.

Beames refuses to disclose the premise of her case, and both she and her lawyer declined to comment. As a result of the appeal, chief electoral officer Ben Johnson decided to delay tallying votes.

In a statement explaining his decision, Johnson cited the Electoral Policy Manual (EPM), which states that results are not final until all complaints and appeals are dealt with.

"While the appeals process as set forth in the EPM has been exhausted, all complaints have not been sufficiently dealt with," Johnson wrote in his statement. "Also, because complaints can be taken to a court of law, it is arguable that all appeals have not been dealt with. A judge may yet rule that the appeals process was inadequate and therefore any decisions arrived at thus far will be rendered invalid."

Mike Waters, Beames's main competition for the position, argued that since all avenues of appeal available through election policy have been exhausted, the ballot totals should be announced immediately.

"I'm confused, as it seems that Ben Johnson has a different interpretation of official UVSS policy," Waters said. In reference to Beames's legal action, he questioned her reasons for appealing. "Why would she need to appeal it, if nobody knows the results yet?"

Both Beames and Waters were disqualified by Johnson during the election. That decision was overturned by an electoral committee and upheld by the UVSS board.

The new UVSS board will not take over until May.

University costs more in Canada, study says

by Mathew Gauk

Our tuition rates may be lower, but that doesn't mean Canadian post-secondary schools are more affordable than those in the United States.

According to a new study by the Washington, D.C.-based Education Policy Institute (EPI), post-secondary education in Canada is less affordable than in the U.S.

The report, entitled *Beyond the 49th Parallel II: The Affordability of University Education*, was premised on the fact that tuition is not the only factor in gauging affordability.

It evaluated affordability in each state and province with a five-point set of criteria: education costs (including tuition, books, and other education-related materials), living costs (room and board), grants, loans, and tax expenditures.

"While tuition is a factor, it's not the only factor," said Kim Steele, a researcher at the Canadian branch of the EPI and co-author of the report. "Student financial assistance plays a very important role in an individual or family's ability to pay for post-secondary education."

Out of affordability ratings of the 50 states and 10 provinces, Canadian provinces failed to break the top 30.

Canada is falling behind because the U.S. has a better system of allocating student grants and loans, and spends more money on these programs, according to the report. In student grants, for example, Delaware placed first, spending $5,634 Cdn per student. Alberta was the highest placed province in terms of grant expenditures, coming in 29th with $2,192 Cdn granted per student. B.C. placed 51st with $1,493 per student.

Steele illustrates this contrast with the example of the Pell Grant, an income-based federal assistance program active in the southern states. Grants trigger access to higher education better than loans do, said Steele.

"It's a targeted grant—what some might call progressive," said Steele, explaining that it gives grants to students who come from a less privileged background.

"In terms of equalizing, we know that more money is going to lower-income people in the United States."

However, affordability doesn't necessarily mean accessibility. Canada still receives higher rates of participation in post-secondary education among lower-income people than the U.S. does, said Steele. So, while the lower-income students get better financial assistance in the States, there aren't as many of them attending university as there are here in Canada.

Another major issue with the affordability of post-secondary education in Canada is the out of pocket cost. These are the costs outside of all government assistance, often covered by the student or the student's family.

The report states that while Canadian students must find, on average, $8,011 Cdn to fund a year in university, American students must pay only $5,830 Cdn.

The largest issue that the report points out is that there are many people who just can't meet the costs, particularly the out-of-pocket costs, said Steele.

She hopes that policy makers will start to realize that the affordability of education is about a lot of things, some of which they have control over.

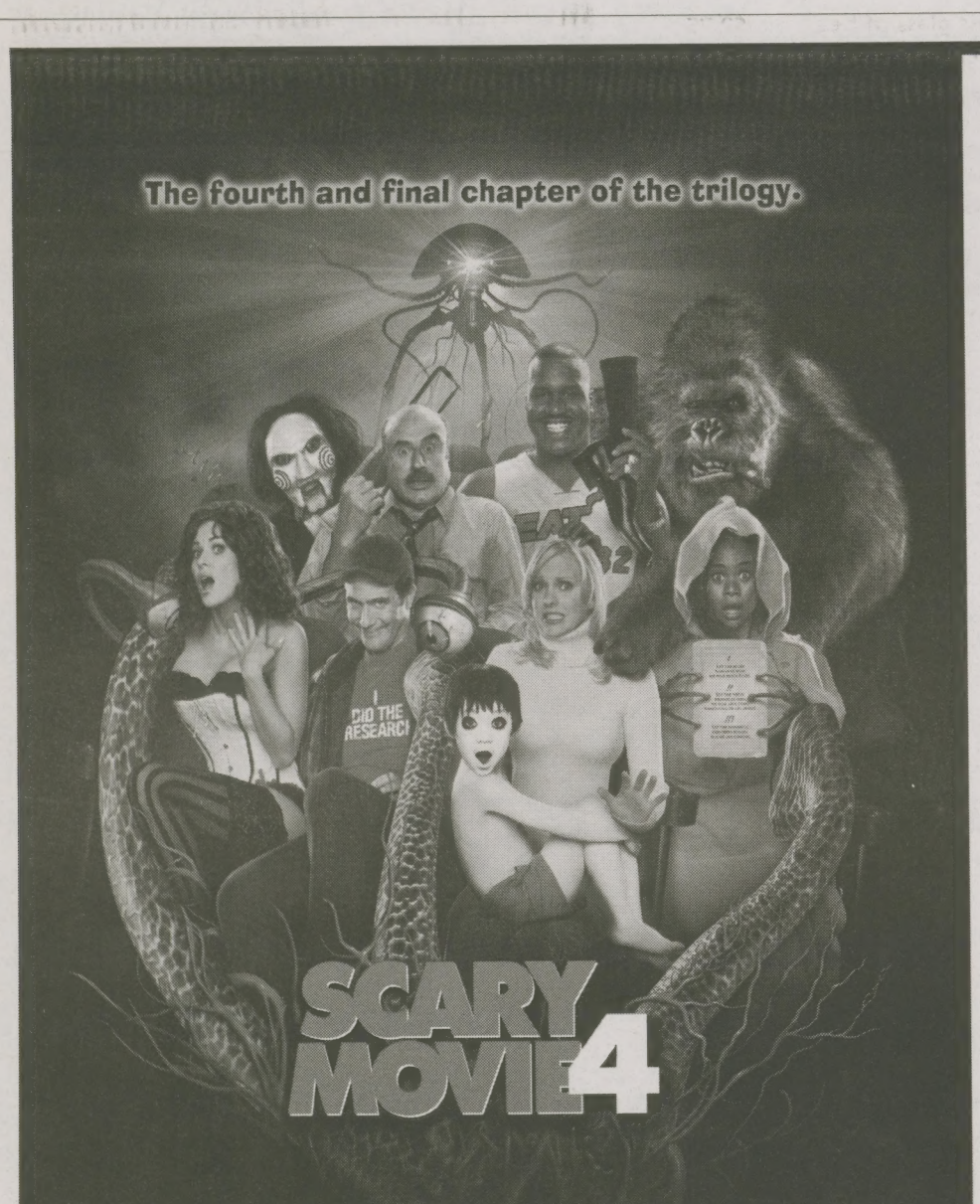
"We can't just look at reducing tuition," said Steele. "That doesn't work. For some people, that's just not the answer."

Steele anticipates that the next report EPI does will reveal some significant changes that have occurred since the study was done in 2002–2003.

"The analysis for 2004–2006 will be more interesting because that's when we're going to begin to see the impact of the larger, more sweeping programs that span the country," said Steele.

Recent changes include the stagnation of the U.S. Pell Grant and negligible increases in financial assistance in many states, she said. She estimated that Quebec will likely slip because it has made recent changes to its financial aid program and Alberta will likely increase its rank because of its slower tuition increases and high median income.

"Since 2002–2003, the landscape in B.C. has changed significantly both in terms of tuition and student financial assistance," said Steele. "B.C. will probably perform more poorly in the next go-around."



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Endangered snake found on Pender

by Micah Luxen

PROVIDED PHOTO

A dead sharp-tailed snake, similar to this live one, was found on Pender Island in February.

Many residents on Pender Island are lucky enough to share their property with a rare and secretive slithery species, whether they have met their guests or not.

The tiny sharp-tailed snake is a longtime occupant of the island, but needs help if it is to survive.

The endangered sharp-tailed snake is only known to inhabit eight sites across Canada, one of which is Pender Island.

Although the snakes are elusive, the Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) was thrilled to learn a dead one was found in February on Pender Island, confirming the previously undocumented fact that the island is home to the snakes.

David Manning, a Pender Island resident, came across the chestnut brown snake as he made rounds to monitor eagle nests.

"I just looked down and I saw this little thing, and it was a snake, but I'd never seen anything so small," said Manning. "I thought it was alive, but it wasn't doing anything. So I kind of touched it and saw it was in fact dead or deeply sleeping or meditating in nirvana."

Manning explained that he had never seen the species before but suspected the snake was special because he had heard HAT was holding a presentation on the sharp-tailed snake later that month on the island.

"I've always had a slight fear of snakes as far as picking them up and playing with them, even if I know they're harmless," said Manning. "But with sharp tailed snakes, it's just so darling, small and sweet—it's not scary at all."

Manning took the snake home and kept it in his freezer until the meeting, where the snake was confirmed to be a sharp-tail.

Excited to have confirmed the island as a sharp-tailed snake site, HAT is now taking steps to protect the snake's habitat on Pender.

"Really, it's very simple things homeowners can do if they know the snakes are there," said Todd Carnahan, HAT stewardship co-ordinator. "They're actually very excited to have a rare species on their property that they can tell people about. It's not like a king cobra or anything—it's more like an earthworm."

HAT is encouraging residents to lay down asphalt shingles and watch for the snake population to settle in.

It maintains that the best thing for the rare population is to get people who live near them to be interested in protecting them, since there are no legal requirements to protect endangered species on private lands.

The problem is that people often like to live in the same places the snakes do. Sharp-tailed snakes are usually found on south-facing rocky slopes of Garry oak and drier coastal Douglas fir ecosystems, habitats that are themselves threatened. Development has decreased the natural habitat of the sharp-tail to the point that only one per cent of the snake's ideal living areas are left on the island.

"The sharp tail is a lowly little snake that looks like a worm, but it's an indicator about the concern of those vanishing ecosystems," said Carnahan. "The fact that we live in such a beautiful climate and ecosystem, that's unique in the world, is something that draws people here and defines our sense of place. If we lose our Garry oak meadows, which we're really close to losing, we're no different than any other part of California—we just become another suburbia."

Carnahan does not wish to eliminate development, but would like to see areas where sharp-tailed snakes and other endangered species are likely to be found identified, and have decisions on how to develop the land made wisely, if at all.

Additionally, Manning encourages British Colombians to take time to appreciate the gift of nature.

"Be very slow and present when you're out in nature," he said. "It's amazing if you even stop for just a minute or two and just listen and look, especially this time of year. It is absolutely tremendous."

CORRECTIONS

In the March 30 *Martlet* we mistakenly credited "UVic now able to support more refugee students" to Ashley Heaslip. The piece was written by Rafael Scarnati.

In the same issue, a photo accompanying "Pavement surfers hit the streets" identified the person in the photo as Dane can Heerden. The person is pictured is actually Sean McDevit.

We apologize for the errors.

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UVic prof helps Brazilians recycle to earn a living

Local inventor says Canada should take a lesson from Brazilian government and stop harassing 'binners'

by Matthew Gauk

What's the solution to huge piles of garbage in the streets and massive unemployment? In Brazil, the solution is to become one of the *catadores,* also known as waste scavengers or "binners."

In the municipality of São Paulo alone, there are an estimated 20,000 people employed in searching garbage for glass, paper, aluminum and other salvageable materials, and then bringing them to one of several recycling centres. Some *catadores* are organized into unions and co-operatives, but most do informal recycling on an individual basis.

UVic geography professor Jutta Gutberlet, a native of São Paulo, has spent the last few months in the city working with a $1-million grant from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to try to organize and improve the lives of *catadores* in four Brazilian municipalities. She is one of several UVic faculty members involved with the project, called the Participatory Sustainable Waste Management (Brazil).

"I feel kind of responsible to do something," said Gutberlet. "I'm familiar with the culture, language, background, and the contacts that really help out for such a project."

One focus of the program is getting the *catadores* recognized by the public and government and creating a dialogue between these groups and the recyclers. The project has been able to fund several recyclers to go and meet the president of Brazil at a national meeting to discuss the federal recycling agenda.

Gutberlet and others are trying to get the *catadores* to share knowledge, education and experience. In addition to setting up a database on recyclable materials so that the *catadores* are better informed about the market demand for their materials, organizers are trying to tackle issues like health and sanitation.

"They're doing a very important environmental service, collecting resources that would otherwise go to the landfill or cause environmental hazards by being deposited on land or in river drainages," said Gutberlet.

Gutberlet and other project members are working with the co-operatives to help them address the many informal recyclers and to try to include these workers in the co-operative system. Informal *catadores* usually work on their own for the independence and autonomy it grants them, as they don't have anyone telling them when and where to go. These workers can go to the middleman whenever they want and get some money in their pockets.

The co-operatives, on the other hand, have much better working conditions, sorting centres, and occupational health standards, according to Gutberlet. They also have the advantage of collective commercialization, through which the co-operatives can market their materials better than people could on an individual basis.

"They don't even open the doors for, say, five tons of paper," said Gutberlet. "But if you have a larger amount, you can sell directly to the recycling industry. You cut out the middleman, get much better prices, which are sometimes three to four times the price."

The biggest bottleneck for the *catadores* is often transportation of the materials to the buyer. Co-operatives can pool their money to buy and share a truck to do this, or sell enough material to the buyer that they can send a truck to pick it up.

"One leader said that co-operativism has been injected into his veins, that he's been kind of contaminated," said Gutberlet. "He believes in it and that's the way he wants to work because he believes in co-operatives and solidarity economy."

PROVIDED PHOTO

Members of a Brazilian cooperative for *catadores*, or recyclers, make their living sorting "trash."

While binners are a lot more common in countries with greater wealth disparities, they are not alien to Canada.

"The generation of waste in Canada is much more than in Brazil," said Gutberlet. "It's just not as visible. People think that by putting it into the blue box the problem is solved."

Gutberlet thinks there are lessons to be learned from some of the Brazilian *catadores*. In some districts the people communicate with the *catadores* and separate and clean the recyclables for them to pick up. Some districts even pay the *catadores*, so that the recyclers have two sources of income.

Gutberlet contrasts this to Canada, where she says that binners are usually excluded from mainstream society and in some places recycling bins are locked up to prevent scavenging.

Tony Hoar, the inventor of a portable homeless shelter, agrees that attitudes towards binners in Canada have to change. Two local binners use Hoar's bicycle-trailer shelter, which he says gives them two to three times the recycling coverage.

"The thing is, we're spending all of this money in Brazil, which is fine," said Hoar. "But up here these guys are free enterprisers and they've got a good system going but they're being harassed."

Hoar says that the Capital Regional District (CRD) is trying to stop the scavenging. One of the reasons for this is to cut down on identity theft, which can result from people throwing away personal documents without properly shredding them.

One of the problems is that even when someone puts something aside for a local binner, such as a box of recycling, the CRD comes along and takes it anyway, according to Hoar.

"These guys rely on this—it's their income unless they get welfare," said Hoar. "I suspect that if they can't get stuff out of the blue boxes they're more likely to take stuff they're not supposed to. It's tough out there."

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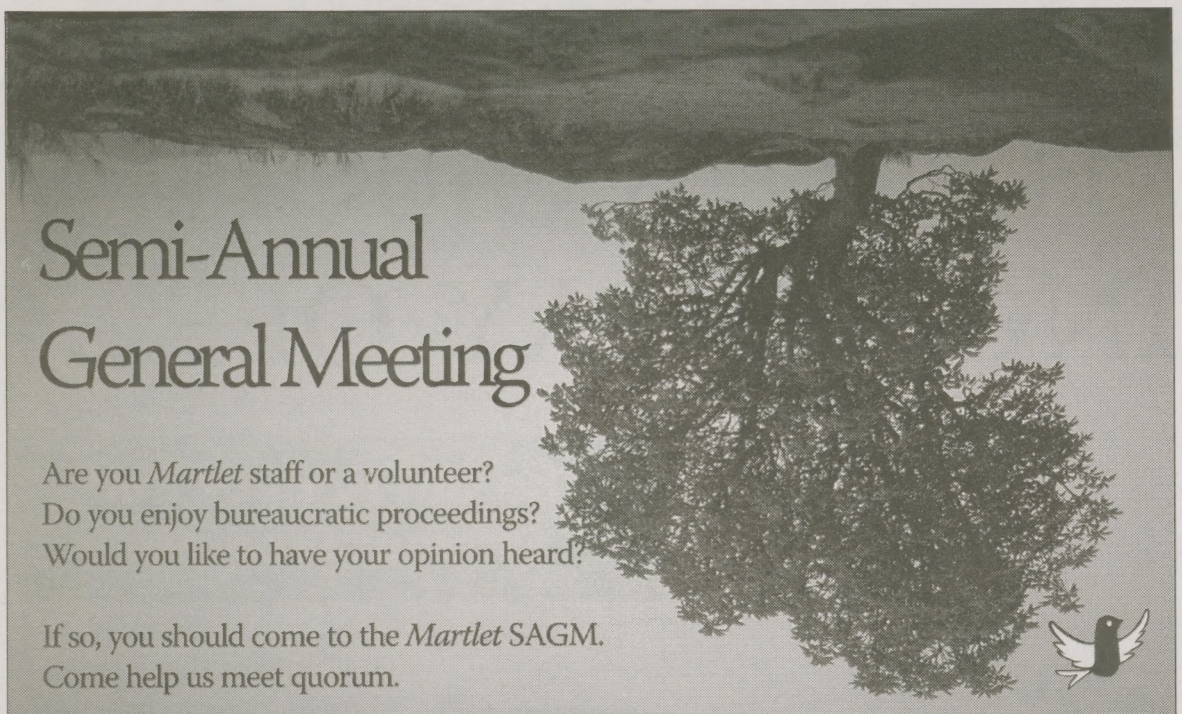

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Friday, April 7th, 2005 at 3:30 PM ~ *Martlet* Office SUB B011

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Housekeeping
   BIRT this meeting will be conducted following Robert's Rules of Order.
   BIRT this meeting will use a gender-alternating speakers' list.
4. Reports from full-time staff
5. Motions
   Amendments to the following:
   - Code of Conduct
   - Membership Policy #1 (Membership Fee Refund)
   - Bylaw 3, section 3
   - Bylaw 3, section 7
   - Bylaw 4, Section 1
   - Bylaw 4, Section 4
   - Bylaw Four, Section 9
   - Bylaw Four, Section 10
   - Bylaw Four, Section 11
   - Bylaw Four, Section 12
   - Bylaw Five, Section 10
   - Bylaw Six, Section 6
   - Bylaw Eleven, Section 5
   - Editorial Policy 2.5
   - Employment Policy 1.8
   - Employment Policy 2, Preamble 5
   - Employment Policy 2, Definition 3
   - Employment Policy 3
   - Employment Policy 3, Duties 8
   - Employment Policy 3, Duties 9
   - Employment Policy 3, Duties 10
   - Employment Policy 4, Purpose
   - Employment Policy 4, Composition 2
   - Employment Policy 5, Purpose
   - Employment Policy 5, Composition 2
6. Question period
7. Adjournment

Full text of the motions available at the *Martlet* office.

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Group works to encourage efficient paper use at UVic

by Kim Armstrong

A week after meeting with representatives from groups including the library, Zap, purchasing services, and the university's technical support team, Tim Lindsay is optimistic that UVic can drastically cut back on its paper consumption.

Lindsay, chair of the UVic Sustainability Project's (UVSP) Sustainable Paper Action Group, has spent the past semester organizing a survey of faculty from 14 departments on their level of support for duplex printing throughout UVic. A switch to duplex, or double-sided, printing as the default setting for university printers is something that the group has been working to achieve all year.

"I would agree with those who've said 'On a good day, professors and students can put Paul Bunyan to shame,'" said Lindsay, who became involved in the group in November when he was hired as chair. "And I know that some logging communities are pressuring governments to allow them to do logging in a more economical way. I think it's time for professors and students and everyone on the consumption end to basically take steps as well."

Faculty at UVic are surprisingly open to taking those steps, as Lindsay and his team of volunteers found out. Out of 483 instructors and professors given the opportunity to participate, 181 actually did so, a 37 per cent response rate.

Of those 181 respondents, 96 per cent supported a policy promoting the submission of double-sided assignments, 91 per cent were willing to say so in their class syllabus, and 76 per cent said they would prefer it if printers on campus automatically printed double-sided. A further 16 per cent had no preference between double and single-sided printing.

"Well, maybe I was surprised at how much support we got," said Lindsay. "The perception among students is that they have to hand in papers single-sided. Even I, personally, will [do this] because I have that perception. The current norm is single-sided, and we assumed that it was because people wanted it that way."

Input from involved groups on campus has been one of the Sustainable Paper Action Group's biggest goals.

"We wanted to work with [those involved, such as Zap and the computer labs] and find out what the barriers are, then address the barriers to senior management," said Lindsay.

Some of the barriers the group has discovered include fears of increased paper jams in printers, slower print times, less space on papers to make comments when marking, and line-ups caused in the computer labs due to either a paper jam and a downed printer or the slower print time. Tests carried out by the group have shown that double-sided printing would be about 30 per cent slower than one-sided printing.

Rob Shirkey, a third-year law student who is involved in the Sustainable Paper Action Group, said that by not printing double-sided, "we are purchasing a resource and only consuming 50 per cent of it. We may as well just harvest the top half of a tree and leave the bottom half standing."

He said that the single-sided mentality was created at a time when technology could only handle that sort of printing.

"Today, almost all of our printers are equipped with reliable duplex options but it is not the default setting. We are choosing to abide by the norms imposed by a technology of yesteryear."

Although the computer labs have indicated to the group that they will not take steps to change printing practices without a go-ahead from management, since it would require extra time and resources to make the switch, they are open to doing so if the orders come from above.

Printers and photocopiers would still be able to print single-sided work if the default setting was changed; it would simply require an additional step by the person doing the printing.

John Measor, a professor with the department of political science, has already tried to change his ways.

"I was encouraged by the project to increase the use of dual-sided copying on campus and I put the notice on all my course outlines," he said.

"I must say that very few students took advantage of the opportunity however, largely because of a lack of access to printers capable of printing in such a fashion, I would imagine."

Lindsay said it may not be long before students have that access.

"Given the support from faculty and the support we think we'll get from students, we hope the senior management will be supportive also," he said.

Although the group has not yet carried out a survey on student opinions, one is in the works.

To get involved with the Sustainable Paper Action Group or the UVSP, go to http://uvsp.uvic.ca.

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

"On a good day," says Tim Lindsay about paper use on campus, "professors and students can put Paul Bunyan to shame."

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Craigdarroch Awards honour profs who love their jobs

by David Karp

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

Ethnobotanist Dr. Nancy Turner is the winner of the 2006 Craigdarroch Gold Medal for Career Achievement in Research.

DIANA NETHERCOTT PHOTO

Dr. Michel Lefebvre received the silver medal for his work on ATLAS, a giant particle detector that will be turned on in 2007.

Passionate about plants

Dr. Nancy Turner beams when anyone brings up the topic of plants.

"I love plants. I love nature. And I love people, so it's the perfect job," said Turner. The UVic professor is an ethnobotanist, studying the relationship between people and plants.

"It covers a lot of ground. You need to have a good understanding of plants and botany, but also all of the different roles that plants play in human culture, from language and classification to nutrition, medicine, [and] materials," Turner said.

Plants go well beyond brightening up a garden, Turner stressed.

"They're deeply important because we rely on plants above all other organisms for our very survival—in so many different ways," she said.

"The very oxygen that we breathe comes from that very marvelous process of photosynthesis. The food that we eat, as well as fuel and clothing—just about everything that we need to survive comes from plants."

Turner's work has won her numerous awards, the latest being the Craigdarroch Gold Medal for Career Achievement in Research. The annual award for UVic professors comes with a $1,000 research grant.

"When I was in elementary school, I wanted to be a botanist, and I was very interested in edible plants at that time," explained Turner. "It kind of grew from there."

Turner finished her undergraduate honours thesis at UVic in 1969 and has been working as an ethnobotanist ever since.

Lately, Turner has been working with the Gitga'at Nation in Hartley Bay helping First Nations elders pass on their knowledge about plants to younger members of the community.

"We assigned the students plants to do research on," said Turner. "The most important part was linking them up with elders who knew about the plants." The students have since compiled a book about the village's plants.

Turner is not content just to leave her work behind at the end of the day. "I have a very eclectic garden with a lot of native species in it," she said, adding she is often given plants to take back with her when working out in the field. "Seaweed—I get lots of seaweed from Hartley Bay," said Turner, producing a zip lock bag full of edible black seaweed. "It's said to be the most nutritious food in the world."

Her office is filled with items she has picked up through her research. "This is Hopi blue corn here," she said, producing a colourful cob. "I've given a lot of it away to students to grow because to keep the knowledge going, you need for there to be a living system. I feel it's a responsibility for me, having learned about this from so many knowledgeable people, to keep it going."

Her students appreciate that giving nature.

"She comes across as very kind and gentle, which she is," said Sushil Saini, a PhD student. "But beneath this is a razor-sharp mind and a mind that is open to such possibilities. . . . She's truly one of those people where you know that it's the love of the work that she does that motivates her, not ego."

Physicist strives to 'extract mysteries from nature'

Dr. Michel Lefebvre goes to Geneva, Switzerland at least six times a year.

"I'm in the business of experimental particle physics," explained Lefebvre, a UVic physics professor. "It's trying to understand the most fundamental structure of matter and energy."

Near Geneva's airport, buried 100 metres under the ground, is a giant particle detector called ATLAS. Roughly half the size of UVic's library, ATLAS will help scientists better understand the laws of physics.

Currently, there are four fundamental forces of physics that can be used to explain any concept in physics. But Lefebvre hopes the ATLAS detector will help narrow that range down.

"We think that all these forces have a common origin. It's called Grand Unification," said Lefebvre. "It's the holy grail of physics—we're trying to extract mysteries from nature."

Underneath the Swiss countryside, scientists will be able to use ATLAS to examine smaller particles of matter than ever before when it is completed next year.

"It's like we're just going to turn on the most powerful microscope ever built," said the physicist, noting that ATLAS will generate over a million gigabytes of data each year.

The particle detector sits inside the Large Hadron Collider, the world's largest particle accelerator. It is a 27-kilometre ring of superconducting electromagnets.

"You need to have the most powerful magnet that money can buy," said Lefebvre. "The only limit you have to allow you to see the smallest possible things are the magnets that can bend the particle beam."

The Large Hadron Collider will fire particles into ATLAS, where they will collide. ATLAS will detect the collisions and collect data.

"The particles for us are a way to discover the laws of physics, because nature is made of particles. That's really what nature is," Lefebvre said.

The UVic professor started working on the particle detector 15 years ago, building components in the basement of the Elliot building and shipping them off to Geneva. He says he will spend the next 10 or 15 years studying the data ATLAS produces.

"We have a big shopping list of things we're looking for," he said, explaining that some scientists hope ATLAS will reveal a fourth dimension. "It's actually not as crazy as it might seem. To the best of our knowledge today, there could be a fourth or fifth space dimension curled up," said Lefebvre. "It wouldn't affect your life, but in a particle accelerator experiment, some particles could escape into that dimension, and then we would see a missing energy."

Lefebvre was honoured with the Craigdarroch Silver Medal for Excellence in Research in March, an annual award that comes with a $1,000 research grant.

"The prize I got is not just for me," said Lefebvre. "This is teamwork. I have a great group of people I'm working with every day. The particle physics group at the University of Victoria is one of the best, if not the best, in Canada."

Lefebvre helped build a component of the project that allows signals to enter and exit ATLAS.

"It's like a thermos," he explained. "We have a big thermos, and inside we put liquid argon. The energy measurements are done inside the thermos, but they have to get out of the thermos. But how do you do that? No one likes to put holes in a thermos."

To solve this problem, Lefebvre headed a $4 million project.

"We got all our gizmos produced and they're all in Geneva now," he said.

Lefebvre is excited for next year, when ATLAS will start running.

"We don't know what nature has in store for us, and that's what's so exciting," he said. "We're like explorers, and we're going to explore the energy frontier. It's one of the most exciting times in particle physics. I wouldn't trade my job for anything."

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It's getting hot in here

Bikram yoga, which is practiced at a sweat-inducing 40 degrees, surprises newcomers with its physical demands

by Nicole Siemens

Modern yogis are praising a newer form of their art. Bikram Yoga is the hot new thing in the yoga world, in more ways than one.

In addition to being the hippest thing in yoga, Bikram is practiced in a room that is 40 degrees Celsius—more the temperature of a sauna than a gym at three degrees above normal body temperature.

The Bikram series takes 90 minutes to complete, and consists of 26 asanas (postures) and two breathing exercises that Bikram Choudhury, the founder and president of the Yoga College of India, designed.

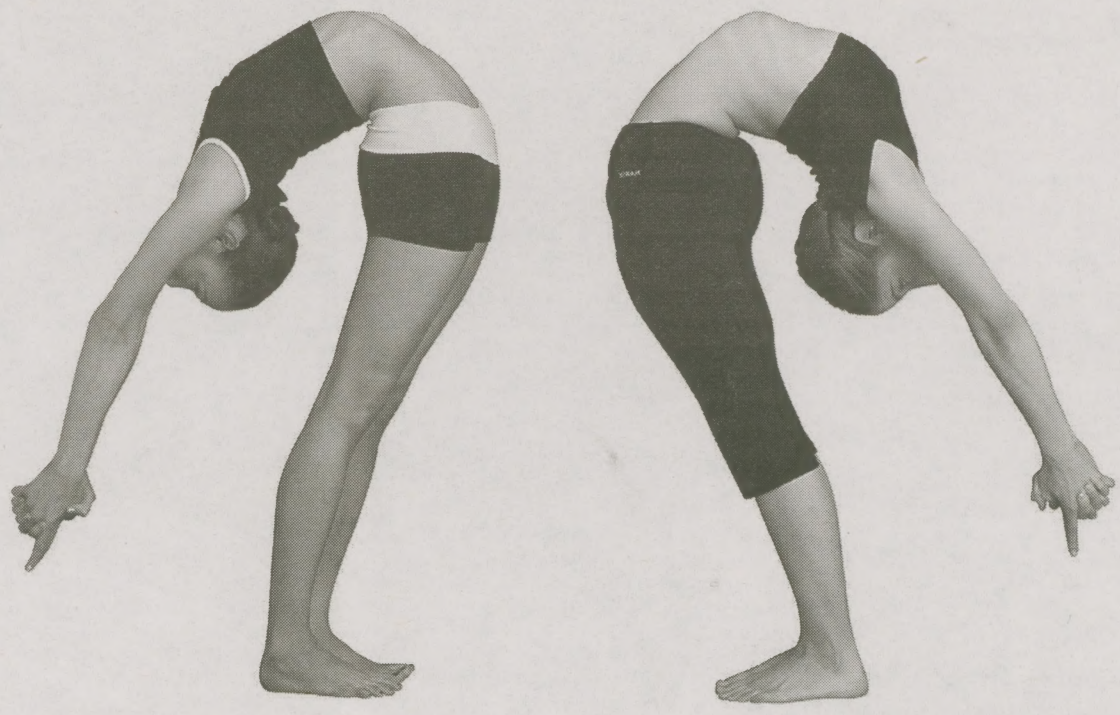
So what's the significance of the heat? Along with the heath benefits of traditional yoga, such as stabilization of the emotions and increased flexibility and core strength, Bikram helps burn fat more efficiently, improves T-cell function and the immune system, detoxifies the body through the skin via sweat, and dilates capillaries, which aids in oxygenating tissues and organs. In addition, Bikram is a great cardiovascular workout.

"I had three vertebrae that were twisted in my back and I couldn't turn to the right," said Bikram instructor Dave Boon. "I couldn't function, I couldn't pull with my right arm—and [with] regular practice here I've been pain free."

Boon teaches at the Fort Street studio, and says he has never felt benefit from any other yoga class. "I don't trust anyone I've ever taken yoga from as much as I trust Bikram."

Boon's faith in Choudhury and his instructors is not misplaced—anyone who wants to instruct must attend a nine-week course at Bikram's Yoga College of India in Los Angeles.

"[We] go over postures and they teach us dialogue, which is just Bikram's scientifically designed best way to verbally explain all the postures. We go over a lot of philosophy with Bikram and Bikram's staff and there are lectures from physicists and biochemists," explains Boon. "Bikram says it's like the equivalent of a year's university course."



PROVIDED PHOTO

Bikram yoga includes 26 different asanas or poses—some of which are quite challenging.

The benefits of Bikram, its highly trained instructors, and the praise it has been receiving has all sorts of people flocking to Bikram studios.

Rylan Ferster, the head coach and general manger of Victoria Salsa, the city's BCHL team, has made it mandatory for his players to attend at least one class a week. "We've been doing it since I took the team over about a year and a half ago. It's good for core strength, stretching all your muscles, relaxation, and also visualizations."

Other athletes are using yoga in their training regiment as well. UVic student Marlow Morritt began practicing in February. An avid runner and familiar face at UVic's gym, he expected to breeze through the class with no trouble at all.

"It wasn't what I expected," said Morritt, who now practices yoga twice a week. "I was pretty confident that I wouldn't have any trouble. . . . The first instructor we had was obviously very good at yoga, [but] he doesn't really have a super muscular build on him and I was quite surprised to see that. It doesn't really depend on how muscular or how fit you are, but different aspects of your body."

Morritt is not the only one who was surprised. Tyson McLellan, a refrigeration mechanic and hockey player, also underestimated the difficulty of Bikram. "It's not the sissy sport I thought it was. It challenged my physical and mental endurance."

However, you don't have to be athletic to start Bikram yoga. It is safe for people with high blood pressure, asthma, and back problems to practice.

In fact, it can help with most of these ailments. Bikram has been known to help lower blood pressure. It is beneficial for those with asthma, as it can be practiced efficiently without overexerting oneself and causing an asthma attack. It helps to strengthen the spine, and can help clear up arthritis in underused joints.

Physical reasons, however, are not the only reasons to practice Bikram. Many people also practice for spiritual reasons, or just to get some time for themselves.

Entering a class for the first time can be intimidating, especially if you're not already physically active. Don't know where to start? Boone advises beginners to just keep at it, try their best, and practice near the teacher.

Wear as little clothing as possible—after all, it's hot in there. It is not uncommon to walk into the studio and find people in attire that would normally be expected at the beach. Due to the intense sweating that occurs during the class, light, fitted clothing is the most comfortable, since it will not get wet and cling to the skin, and will help to keep you cool.

It is also crucial to keep hydrated by drinking between two and three litres of water throughout the day, and by bringing water to class. Water is lost through sweating, and insufficient hydration can lead to dizziness or fainting.

Those who enjoy Bikram continue to go again and again. Boone jumped directly from Tai Chi to Bikram, and then to teaching, Morritt shelled out $200 for a 20-class pack after only going to two introductory classes, and Ferster praises the benefits while making sure his entire team is keeping up with their yoga.

What drives an individual to Bikram varies from person to person, but one thing is for sure: these people like it hot.

The path you choose can make all the difference.

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Flashing neon recalls past

A brief history of the Turner Block

by Steve Carey

At the intersection of Richmond Avenue and Birch Street, the flashing neon sign on the old corner building has delighted locals and intrigued newcomers for over 60 years.

This is the Turner Block, a Victoria landmark. The sign, "Turner's: news, confectionery, magazines," is a neon red and green beacon for the Jubilee area.

The clean-lined, white stucco building was a second home for Royal Jubilee nursing school students, an ice cream and candy shop for kids, and a popular hangout for Jubilee residents. When Ian Turner retired in 2000, his coffee shop had been operating for 54 years. The Turner Block has been vacant since.

According to Liberty Walton, a local heritage consultant, the building was built for the Turners by J. A. Pollard Construction of Victoria. The plans were stamped by John Wade, whose architectural firm later designed the University of Victoria's Clearihue building and University Centre.

It is not the first building on the site. The original 1917 Jubilee confectionery was a corner store operated out of a house. Scottish immigrant Catherine Turner moved her family into the house in 1937 and purchased the building and land in 1943.

Soon after, her son Dunc Turner had the plans drafted for a two-storey building with 2,450 square feet (about 230 square metres) of commercial space, a full basement and a top floor of suites.

Constructed in 1946, the Turner Block is bullet shaped with very little ornamentation. With its simple blue-tiled fringe and curving front, the Turner Block is often confused with art deco—but the building is an intact example of streamline modern architecture, which is known for its aerodynamic curves, use of cement or stucco instead of exotic stone and dramatic rounded corners that simulate motion.

The lower floor of the building was shared by the Turner's family-run businesses: Turner's Confectionery and Ian's Coffee Stop. Over the years, the Turner Block also housed a shoe repair shop, a barber, a florist and a small bookstore.

Catherine Turner ran Turner's Confectionery, the corner store where she sold giant ice cream cones, hard and soft candy and groceries.

Her son Ian Turner started at the family business in 1943, opening his own coffee shop in 1946. Named Ian's Coffee Stop, it was a diner with a stretched counter, low spinning stools and booths that faced the busy Richmond Street.

Bob Carey knew Ian Turner as a sportsman and a storyteller. The then-twenty-something Carey was working construction in the Jubilee area back in the 1980s.

"I'd go in there, getting coffee for the boys, tanned, with my shirt off and Ian would try to set me up with the nurses," said Carey.

Carey remembers the interior of the café as an extension of Ian Turner's personality. Turner would display souvenirs given to him by customers and write opinions on newsprint sheets he taped to the windows.

"I used to see him working in there from the street," said Soren Henderson, a member of the North Jubilee Neighbourhood Association. "Ian was a real part of the community. My wife used to take our son there when he was little for some of Ian's donuts."

Piping hot coffee, thick-crusted pies, old-fashioned sugar coated doughnuts made right in the shop, and other classic comfort foods were served at the 45-seat diner.

"He was always kind to the nurses," said Maureen Marwood, who attended the Jubilee nursing school in the '50s. According to Marwood, her class lived off a $10-a-month stipend and Ian's Coffee Stop was an affordable escape.

Patti Wentworth has fond childhood memories of the original Jubilee confectionery.

When her father returned from fighting in the Second World War, the first thing he did was take young Patti on a walk to Turner's Confectionery and buy her one of their unforgettable hard-serve ice cream cones.

BEN BERESFORD PHOTO

Ian's Coffee Stop and Turner's Confectionery is a landmark in the Jubilee area. The building has been vancant since Ian Turner retired in 2000.

She remembers Catherine Turner rousting young Ian with a broom whenever he was spending too long talking to customers or wasn't paying attention to his duties.

Wentworth also recalls Ian slipping the family dog a scoop of ice cream when his mother wasn't looking. The curtains on the curving front window can be seen above the blinking neon sign. Upstairs are four suites, last rented out for residential use in the early '80s.

In 2002, the Keifer Sutherland movie *Dead Heat* was filmed there, and the Victoria band Armchair Cynics used photos of the building and neon sign for their *Coffeeshop Confessions* album.

Kevin Key and his company, Keyplan, were hired by the Turner family to provide consultation and revitalization options for the site.

"There is tremendous support from the city and the North Jubilee community association," said Key. "They're very supportive of the revitalization of the whole neighbourhood."

Key suggested that the community could encourage local businesses to incorporate the predominant colours of red and blue along with neon to make the North Jubilee area stand out along Fort Street.

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What's in a name? Maybe a prize.

UVic's Diversity Advisor is looking for a great name for the new diversity newsletter to be launched in the fall. Feeling creative?

Send your suggestions to Grace Wong-Sneddon at gwongsne@uvic.ca by April 28, 2006. If your submission is chosen, you'll win a $50 gift certificate from the UVic Bookstore.

Watch for the inaugural issue in early September, which will be packed with news about diversity and equity initiatives and resources across the university. There will be ideas and best practices about what we can do, both individually and collectively, to make UVic a welcoming, inclusive and supportive place to work and learn. This is an opportunity to hear different perspectives of our campus community and where differences can be openly explored, enjoyed and understood.

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AURAL AFFAIRS

Step up or break up

by Jake Sandberg

The future of a relationship is always uncertain, but in the end there are only two possible outcomes: break up or stay together. And if you stay together, you might even consider tying the knot.

A breakup is never easy. Every moment you are with someone makes it that much harder to get over them. If a relationship must end, don't look at the time you had together as a waste. Every relationship shapes your future and while the memories of those you loved may fade, the impressions left behind won't. Yes, you have to start over, but it is another chance at finding someone perfect.

Marriage, on the other hand, has it's own pitfalls. While it takes only one person to ask, it's a huge step for both parties, and the decision can often lead to a lot of doubts and issues. There's never a perfect moment for a decision like this and for all you know, it may have already passed—but if it's meant to be, you'll get your chance. If you feel this option is the one for you, make sure you've given it a lot of thought. Don't marry the person you think you can live with—marry the one you can't live without.

The pros of the third choice are self-evident: by being together without getting married you get to be with the person you love without making any changes. If people really could find perfect partners, one-third of marriages in Canada wouldn't end in divorce, so why risk what you have if it is already special.

After all, there's no reason to jump into commitment. Summer is just around the corner, so take the time to enjoy what you have. Whether it's a summer fling, a trip with your friends, or the precious few months you have with your loved one before you leave for school, make the most of it. Don't dwell on circumstances you can't change and don't forget that your decisions affect other people.

The outcomes of your relationships are at least partially your choice. Many of you probably don't even think of your relationship's future, let alone marriage, which is perfectly acceptable too. There's no rush to make life decisions so take every day as is. Deciding the fate of a relationship only has to be as complicated as you make it, so breathe, talk to a friend, and relax—it's only love.

Sandberg out.

ADVOCACY COLUMN | THE WOMEN'S CENTRE

Getting to know your Women's Centre

by the Women's Centre

The UVSS Women's Centre is a constituency group of the UVSS. Our mission is to be a strong, radical, feminist voice on campus. The goals and activities of the Women's Centre are guided by our vision: to create social change through political action, education and support of the University of Victoria's women students.

The Women's Centre is "a place exclusively reserved for the use and occupancy of women." This includes all persons who self-identify as women. The women-only space policy strives to "encourage a safe, respectful environment for all women regardless of personal definitions of 'womanhood.'"

In addition to self-identified women, the gender policy emphasizes the inclusion of transitioning individuals or individuals who identify as a woman in some parts of their lives.

Self-identified women-only space is necessary to provide a location where women can organize and meet with other women in a space removed from those aspects of mainstream society that may threaten our feelings of safety, particularly pertaining to sexism, racism, able-ism, heterosexism, transphobia, discrimination, oppression and violence against women.

Some services provided by the Women's Centre include a gender-neutral library and resource centre, campus and community referral services, community advocacy and support, workshops, events, numerous resources and space to work, chat, sleep, eat, rant . . . whatever you want—it's your centre!

ADVOCACY COLUMN | ACCESS UVIC

Creating an inclusive university

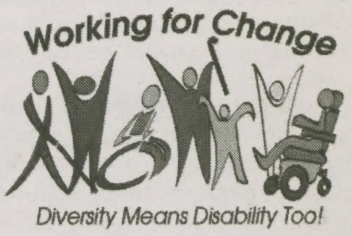
by Rose Mariana Robb

Over the summer Access UVic will be busy with planning and preparations. We anticipate a wonderful year working closely with student leaders who have a strong commitment to accessibility and advocacy. The challenge is to make the necessary shift to a culture of inclusion of people with disabilities. If we are successful we can put the University of Victoria at the forefront of Canadian universities.

In my view the university has special obligations and responsibilities to remove remaining barriers to the full participation of disabled people in post-secondary education and society. Historically it has been tempting for the UVic and other universities to hope that they could open their doors to ever more diverse students and yet remain essentially unchanged. Not possible. The introduction of Aboriginal students, women, students of colour and especially disabled students has required a willingness to do things differently. I believe students are the ones who need to champion this transformation.

So far the university has responded to the arrival of more and more hundreds of students with special needs by providing individual adjustments over and over again to increasing numbers of disabled students.

The thing is that the individual adjustments are only needed because the institution remains essentially unchanged from how it was before we arrived. Much of the individual accommodation the university provides to disabled students would not be necessary if the institution realistically integrated the needs of disabled students into course design, instructional strategies and exam practices. Students with disabilities continue to arrive



in ever-increasing numbers and they will continue to organize and advocate for greater understanding and acceptance. Ideally, fellow students will take strong pro-active measures to support this self-advocacy.

It's useful to remember that improving the university for students with disabilities benefits everyone. Faculty attitudes, teaching skills and campus culture have been identified as primary obstacles to providing equal educational opportunities to disabled students. When university instructors are given the benefit of professional preparation to work with disabled students in their classrooms they gain teaching skills that enhance the educational experience of all students.

A campus culture that expands to include disabled people within its image of "typical student" is a culture in which all kinds of students can recognise themselves and feel accepted. It is the culture of an inclusive university.

Interested students will soon be able to read Access UVic's Referendum Report online at www.accessuvic.ca. The report includes a summary of our first year, a financial report, our accomplishments and setbacks, and our goals for next year. Print copies are also available.

Rose Mariana Robb is the director of Access UVic, located in room B102 in the Student Union Building. She can be reached at 472-4389.

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Staying safe in the sun

by Briony Smith

Ah, summer—it's a glorious time for the sun-starved.

Everyone knows that you should avoid bad sunburns and try to slap on some SPF 15 once in awhile, but most of us sorely underestimate the importance of staying sun safe.

But consider this: 65,840 of 2005's sun-caused cases of cancer in Canada were preventable, with 725 of those preventable cases ending in death.

Here's a handy list of facts and reminders that will hopefully finally inspire you to stay safe this summer and beyond.

Always, always, always wear sunblock. Always!

Not just in the summer, folks. Skin cancer is the number-one form of cancer in Canada, making up one-third of all newly diagnosed cancer cases. It's important to slap on at least an SPF 15 every single day, whether it's snowing or raining or bright and sunny.

Clouds don't block UV rays—80 per cent of them make it through any weather.

Even "normal" sun exposure is considered radiation. You don't need to tan or burn repeatedly to get skin cancer—the damage adds up, even with relatively normal exposure. "Breaks" between tanning won't heal any damage you've done.

And a high SPF doesn't give you a free pass. Restricting sun exposure between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., staying in the shade, and wearing protective clothing might not sound like fun, but neither is cancer.

Get your damn moles checked out!

The yearly check-up is no picnic, but it's important! Having your skin checked by the doctor annually is just as key as your blood pressure or Pap smear. They can check your back for moles you might have missed and tip you off to any funny-looking spots. Basal cell skin cancer, according to the Canadian Dermatology Association, is the most common kind of skin cancer and is surfacing in plenty of young people now.

There are plenty of myths about tanning—most of which say how good it is for you. Here are some common ones.

Tanning gives you Vitamin D

Uh, sorry. Tanning beds emit UV-A rays, which do not give you vitamin D—that's UV-B's job. Oh, and Health Canada reports that many tanning beds can give off five times as many UV-A rays as the sun. You probably get all the vitamin D you need from your diet and anything you're missing is provided from a minute or two outside during your daily routine.

A base tan can protect you from further damage

Wrong again. A tan is your body's way of showing that it has been damaged, so you're already screwed.

Tanning can clear up acne

In reality, tanning doesn't zap your zits, it just masks them with a bit of colour.

Endorphins make you happy

A brief surge of endorphins isn't a good tradeoff considering the severe health risks that tanning involves. There are light boxes that emit UV rays in very small doses for people who need an extra boost.

SETH COOPER PHOTO

Writer Briony Smith hydrating before her transformation to a faux-tan bronze goddess.

From marshmallow to bronze goddess—my adventure with spray tanning

Tanning is extremely bad for you and self-tanners seem a little labour-intensive, so my interest was piqued when I heard that the Island's only California Tan Sunless AutoBronzer was right here in Victoria at Tantastic Tanning Studio (#605-3991 Quadra St., 704-0403). Here's how it went down.

March 30, 7:30 a.m.

I've been instructed to scrub my body down with a "creamy exfoliator" by Tantastic proprietor Michèle Cameron. This will help the tan stick better and last longer. So I shave my legs, and scrub, scrub, scrub. I ponder my pale skin and wonder how I'll be able to pull this off.

March 30, 5:15 p.m.

I arrive chez Tantastic and head to the Hydration Station ($24.95), which is like a steam room, iron lung, and disco all in one. I strip down and lie in space pod-like thing, and then enjoy a 20-minute hydration, complete with lavender-scented steam, vibrations, and a pleasant light show, all of which I control via a handy-dandy keypad.

Post-hydrating, I'm ready to become "tantastic," courtesy of the AutoBronzer ($49.95). The tanning spray is made from a sugar solution that is relatively free of scary chemicals and will actually magnetize to my skin.

"How dark do you want to go?" asks Cameron, who earlier referred to me as a "marshmallow." "Healthy tan, or 'I just got back from Barbados'?" In the name of journalistic adventurousness, I opt for the darker tan. "Well, you're so pale, that the Barbados look will probably make you look healthy," says Cameron. Zing!

I slather the tops and soles of my feet, the tops and palms of my hands, and my elbows and knees with "barrier cream" to prevent weird staining.

After the spray, I wipe a little too zealously on one hand, leaving a lighter patch, but leave the other hand freckled with solution after Cameron's assurances that it will all blend together.

March 30, 11:30 p.m.

After leaving the solution on for several hours, it rinses off nicely, leaving a nice medium-brown tan and—yes!—no stains on my white sheets.

March 31, 7:45 a.m.

Agggh! I didn't glop enough barrier cream onto the specified areas, as my hands and feet are mottled and scary-looking. Nobody seems to notice at work.

March 31, 1:00 p.m.

My boyfriend is in town. He doesn't notice anything new. When prompted, he asks, "Is it . . . a new haircut?" When I reveal my tan, he says, "That's funny," and makes a wonderfully crude comment about determining whether I really am tan all over.

March 31, 1:30 p.m.

Good friend says, "You look so freaking hot right now that I want to have porno sex with you on the floor!" Best friend says, "You have kind of the troll doll thing going on: brown skin and a shock of blond hair."

March 31, 3:00 p.m.

My boss finally guesses what's up. "It looks really nice, very healthy. Well, a tan isn't healthy, but, well . . . you know."

April 1–3

The spotting on my feet and hands has faded to a much less freakish glow, and the tan has faded to a very subtle bronzing that looks awesome. Although I would go to town with the barrier cream next time, my spray tan was a delightful experience, and I would do it again.

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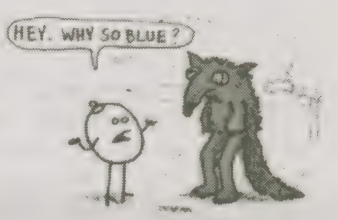

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Malawi on the mind

by Chelsea Herman

As he looks over his photos from Malawi, Africa, Kyle Danielson knows that by the time he returns, many of the people in his pictures—colleagues and friends—will be dead.

There are some battles too immense for a single person to take on. The struggle against famine and AIDS in Africa is one of them. Even in a single district like Kasungu, it is a fight Danielson knows he cannot win alone. Yet the 22-year-old plans to spend the rest of his life trying.

"Anyone who feels that being hopeful is naïve, should go to Malawi," he says. "They will see that hope is what brings Malawians together to do unimaginable things—such as running a clinic without appropriate medicine, supplies, or resources. If it wasn't for hope, there would be nothing."

Talking about his experiences in Kasungu in an apartment in Victoria, his emotions range from anger to sadness to bewilderment, all in the course of an hour. When asked what emotion best describes his six weeks in the one of the poorest countries in the world, he responds without hesitation: Hope.

Danielson is a fourth-year nursing student at the University of Victoria. As a teenager, he worked as a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical assistant. In 2003, while attending Malaspina University-College in his hometown of Nanaimo, Danielson travelled to Vietnam on an international practicum to work as a pediatric student nurse. The experience renewed his desire to be "a global citizen," he says.

In 2004, Danielson was awarded the Canadian government's Millennium Scholarship, a $10,000 award that recognizes academic excellence and active citizenship. While at a conference for scholarship winners, he was inspired by a Canadian speaker who had set up an AIDS clinic in Malawi. "I responded to a challenge to 'do something meaningful' with the prize money," says Danielson.

The challenge brought him to Kasungu, in eastern Malawi, to work as a student nurse in a medical clinic. This experience changed his life, and inspired him to want to become a doctor—ultimately to return to Kasungu.

"When I go back, they won't be there," says Danielson, visibly pained as he shows me the images of patients and friends.

"It's guilt, it's grief. Call it whatever you like—but it's with you all the time."

The southeast African country of Malawi is currently facing what relief organization SOS Children calls "its worst food crisis in a decade." At present, 4.2 million of Malawi's 12 million residents face starvation.

In 2005, a severe drought caused a massive deficit of maize, the crop on which most Malawians are dependent. Malawians call it the year of chinkukuzi, or "the year nobody will survive."

Drought is common in southern Africa, but in the past, droughts have typically occurred only every five or six years. In recent years, drought has occurred with increasing frequency. The last major drought was in 2002, and the ensuing maize deficit was comparable to this year.

The winter crops will be harvested in April, and should alleviate some of the deficit. But even among those who have managed to stay alive into April, hundreds of thousands of Malawian lives will be claimed by other threats, particularly cerebral malaria and AIDS.

Last summer, Danielson saw the devastation firsthand.

"Nothing could have prepared me for the inescapable and immeasurable amount of suffering that millions of Malawians call daily life," he says, shaking his head in disbelief. "I still get sick to my stomach when I think back to what I saw."

PUTTING MALAWI ON THE MAP

MAP PROVIDED

He flips to a photo. Two women sit in the bed of a pick-up truck on either side of the body of a 21-year-old girl who died of AIDS.

"After she died, her body lay in the bed for two days without a morgue or body bag," he says. "We could not transport her home because there were no vehicles and no money to transport her. Only after another volunteer and I hired a vehicle could she be taken to her final resting place. Her grief-stricken mother was by her side. This was a daily reminder of the ravaging effects of AIDS in Malawi."

He witnessed multiple patients dying each day of malnutrition, malaria, and complications from AIDS. He tells the stories in the manner of a medical professional: desensitized to the daily occurrence of death.

However, some deaths appear to shake him more than others.

"I found it especially hard to bear when the small children—some not even old enough to talk—died in their parents' arms right in front of me, or even worse, in my arms."

Malawi's HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is twice the rate in sub-Saharan Africa overall, with an estimated 900,000 people (or 14.2 per cent of its population) infected, according to the Henry J. Kaiser Foundation.

However, Danielson says, Malawian healthcare workers have a more accurate idea of the epidemic's extent—they estimate that closer to 40 per cent are likely suffering from HIV/AIDS.

The unavailability of basic but crucial resources like bed nets, anti-retroviral drugs, antibiotics and rehydration solution is also especially frustrating to Danielson. He points to a picture of himself treating a young girl suffering from cerebral malaria, which he says might have been prevented with a bed net costing $1.50. Instead, the girl died.

Another time, the clinic ran out of rehydration solution for children. "We went to the district hospital and begged them for theirs, and they said, 'Sure, we'll give you half our supply.'

"We were ecstatic," says Danielson. "We were going to get half of a government hospital's supply. And the gentleman comes out with two packages. That's not even enough for one person for one day, and that's a hospital that's responsible for half a million people."

Still, Danielson says giving up never crossed his mind.

"Malawians are a very inspiring bunch of people who never ever gave up. I'm sure that their determination and resiliency is all that's keeping them alive, because I think I might have given up if it wasn't for their support.

"Even the staff is infected with HIV and AIDS and they continue to work every day. They don't have food, and they continue working every day. So I just followed their lead."

Doctors are a rarity in Malawi—part of the reason Danielson wants to return as a physician. There are 300 doctors in Malawi, serving a population of more than 12 million. There are more Malawian doctors practicing in the city of Manchester, England than in Malawi, reports Stephen Lewis, Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Although Danielson usually speaks with composure, bursts of frustration surface when he allows himself to speak candidly.

"We need to act and we need to act now. The longer we wait the worse the situation will become. And by 'situation' I mean the lives of people. Real fucking people. Just as real and as worthy of help as you or I."

After he graduates this spring, Danielson will be nursing at the B.C. Children's Hospital until he begins his master's of science in population and public heath at Simon Fraser University this fall. After that, he plans to go to medical school.

For now, he is still completing his practicum in remote nursing in the northern Vancouver Island town of Port McNeil. At the same time, he has been working tirelessly to raise money for the clinic in Kasungu.

So far, his efforts have helped raise over $10,000. Danielson says he has been encouraged by the generosity of Canadians, and overwhelmed by the support he has received.

The Malaspina nursing department is planning a ribbon campaign, while students at Woodlands Secondary School have raised over $3,000 through bake sales and fundraisers.

Malaspina education students have begun a major fundraising campaign, hoping to raise at least $20,000 over three years. The students plan to travel to Malawi and help construct a 45-bed addition to the clinic where Danielson worked.

In addition, UVic's school of nursing, under Danielson's leadership, has fundraised nearly $6,000—enough to feed 800 people in Kasungu for five months.

Woodlands Secondary School teacher Mary Cross has been working with Danielson during the fundraising. She marvels at how Danielson balances his nursing responsibilities and his fundraising efforts.

"I know at one point he worked all night, and he had to pick up a donation and go to Malaspina to give a speech. He hadn't even slept," she says.

Danielson's current goal is to provide the Malawian clinic with a generator, which would provide much-needed electricity.

"Reliable electricity will allow us to pump in water from a nearby village, utilize basic medical equipment, and open the one and only operating theatre. It's not a one-size-fits-all solution but it will help tremendously," he says.

In spite of these efforts, Danielson continues to receive disheartening news. First, the feeding program funded by the UVic nursing students faced a major setback. They have the money, but due to the drought they can't get food.

"Now the food has run completely out, so they can't purchase maize. There's nowhere to get it from. I knew we would run out of food, and people would starve to death. That's what a famine is."

Most recently, Danielson received an e-mail from a colleague in Malawi.

"Their worst fears have become a reality," Danielson says. "The famine has exhausted what little resources were left. To make matters worse, the local water supply has run dry, without rain in sight. They are struggling to maintain the basics of what keeps people alive."

"Somehow, nearly five million people starving to death isn't enough to make the evening news, but Oprah's Book Club monopolized the airways for three days straight. That just blows my mind," says Danielson, his voice rising.

"The ultimate tragedy is that we have the resources, technology, and manpower to save the millions of starving and suffering Malawians. Can someone explain to me why we aren't? I'm baffled."

His mission clearly has its bad days—days where he can't help but face the magnitude of the Malawian struggle. But Danielson insists his hope has not wavered.

"Malawians have been and will continue to be hopeful for a brighter future—with or without or help.

"We can choose to help them with resources, technology, love and compassion, or we can wait and see what happens if we don't. I, for one, choose the former option."

If you want to learn more about how you can help the people of Malawi, please contact Kyle Danielson at kyledanielson@gmail.com.

RIGHT: **Kyle Danielson in the clinic in Kasungu, Malawi in Africa, where he volunteered as a student nurse for six weeks.**

BELOW: **A 21-year-old girl who died of AIDS is transported to her final resting place—her grief stricken mother by her side in the truck. The girl's body lay in a bed in the clinic for two days before volunteers donated the money to transport her.**

THE BIRTH OF A DOCTOR

RIGHT: **"These last-ditch medical interventions were all that stood between this starving child and death. Our efforts were symbolic at best and this boy died of malnutrition."**

BELOW: **This village water pump serves over 650 people. Women and children line up three times a day with their buckets for parasite-ridden water. The pump ran dry recently and the children are now forced to walk to the next available pump in a neighbouring village.**

PHOTOS PROVIDED

Editorial

Education funding needs a rehaul

Who would have guessed that post-secondary education actually costs more in Canada than in the U.S.?

After all, average college tuition south of the border ranges from $6,381 (all figures Canadian dollars) per year at public instituitions to a staggering $24,679 at private colleges. Compare that to $4,214 for a year of university here in Canada, and we should be laughing.

But as all students know, tuition is only part of the cost of going to college or university—there's also books and supplies and cost of living to consider—and those costs can be offset in a number of ways—grants and loans, for example.

All those factors considered, post-secondary education in Canada is actually more expensive than in the States—and the Education Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. have the numbers to prove it.

Canada's showing in EPI's report on affordability is pretty poor. The top-ranked province was Quebec, coming in 31st out of the 60 states and provinces included in the study.

Closer to home, our own bonny province was fourth best in Canada and 42nd overall.

When it comes to grant expenditures, B.C. slides even closer to the bottom of the pack, managing only $1,493 per student—good enough for 51st. Delaware, ranked first in this category, spends $5,634 per student on grants. That's a pretty big difference.

Even within Canada, B.C. is only ranked fifth. Alberta, who managed $2,192 per student, is head of the pack.

Even more damning for B.C. is the fact that the study was based on data from 2002–03. The authors contentend that the province would fare even worse if current information were used.

Out of pocket costs are another factor. American students pay $5,830 out of their own pockets while Canadian students must cough up $8,011.

That's a substantial amount of money, and it suggests our current system of grants and loans is not sufficient assistance for students.

It is also interesting to note that the disparity between provinces is greater than that between states, suggesting some sort of national strategy might be in order.

When one province in particular—that'd be Nova Scotia—is found to be lagging behind the others in terms of costs and grants, both the provincial and federal governments have a responsibility to address the issue.

It is surprising and somewhat strange that, given our pride in our funding of social programs—things like education and health care—we seem to be falling behind.

But it gets better. We're behind the States, whose own social programs are subject to much scrutiny and criticism north of the 49th parallel.

Now, far be it from us to point fingers, but it seems someone isn't living up to their potential.

The EPI report, with its somewhat counter-intuitive conclusions, should move us to action. It's time to take a serious look at how education is supported in Canada and how it can be improved. That is going to take vision–and initiative—on the parts of both the provincial and federal levels of government.

Editorial topics are decided at weekly editorial meetings and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of all staff members.

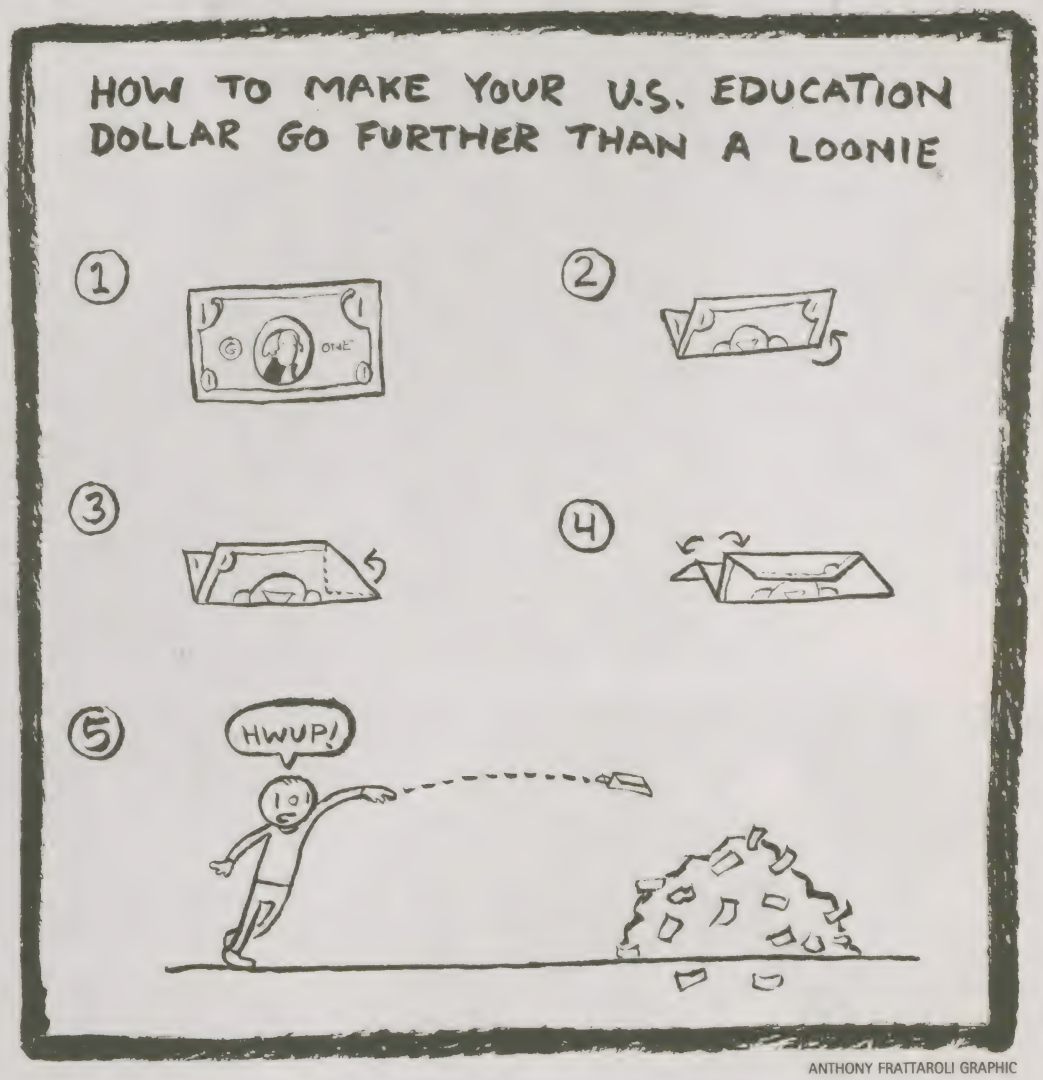
edit@martlet.ca

THUMBS UP | THUMBS DOWN

Thumbs Up
To classes being finished. Put on your party hat, hit the gym so you can later hit the beach and crack open your choice of economy-sized beer. It's time to forget everything you've learned over the last eight months and get stupid.

Thumbs Down
To be classes being finished. Put on your exam hat, hit the all-night coffee bar so you can later the hit the 36th row of exam desks in the McKinnon Gym. It's time to get a full-time job or two and start paying back all the government's and/or bank's money you've spent over the last eight months. Life is full of conflicts.

EDITORIAL CARTOON | HWUP!



ANTHONY FRATTAROLI GRAPHIC

LETTERS

S-Hut issues

As a blind student and active member of Access UVic, I would like to respond to the March 30 article "SUB offered as space for exams." The article states that Access UVic was initially upset about the lack of consultation from students's society (UVSS) chair Penny Beames prior to the submission of her motion to the UVSS board. In fact, we at Access UVic are still upset about this matter. While we welcome Beames' interest, however belated, her actions have not been helpful.

S-Hut has been a priority issue for Access UVic for two years. We first spoke to Beames about S-Hut in May 2005. She displayed no interest at all, although her colleague, Loren Husband, argued unsuccessfully that S-Hut was an appropriate issue for an Armed With Understanding project. There are many ways in which Beames could have worked with disabled students to get rid of S-Hut during her year in office.

What she has done has not resulted in any improvements to our exam situation.

We are fortunate at UVic to have a conscientious individual like Laurie Keenan in our resource centre. But this does not make it okay for the chair of the UVSS to discuss the needs of disabled students with our service provider, instead of with us. In effect, Penny Beames has appropriated the voice of a democratically organized disability advocacy group, and we will not tolerate this.

The historical tension between client and service provider is perhaps best illustrated by the experience of the organized blind movement in the United States. When blind people first began to organize, fifty years ago, it was the professional associations of support workers for the blind who opposed their efforts.

Jakob Tenbroek, founder of the National Federation of the Blind describes this phenomenon best: "The matter is as simple as this. Most agency workers are good people but they are also human. They tend to defend their own vested interests, and those interests are not always identical to the interests of the blind they supposedly serve.""

As blind people began to assert their rights, the support agencies for the blind had to learn that it was unacceptable "to act in the name of the blind without the approval of the blind." Access UVic hopes that Penny Beames has heard this message loud and clear.

-Kyla Berry
Volunteer co-ordinator
Access UVic

Yay Martlet

Please pass on my congratulations to the people responsible for the March 30 issue of *O Really?!* It looked great, was sharp as a tack, and it's the funniest thing I've read from UVic or anywhere in Victoria in the last 10 years.

-Patrick Derricourt

Reality is important

The letters of Rafael Scarnati (March 30) and Reuven Brandt (March 9, March 23) betray a spurious and imaginative re-creation of the evening of lecture, "Israel's 'Disengagement': A view from Gaza" at the University of Victoria on March 2.

It is unfortunate that the *Martlet* thought it appropriate to allow the letter writers to directly (and falsely) attribute quotations to me, despite the fact that the paper did not report on the event itself.

As with any good smear, Scarnati and Brandt focus attention on an imagined personal characteristics rather than the substance of the issue.

It is conspicuous that not a single point of fact is challenged: not from the almost three hours I presented and answered questions on the night of the event, nor from the tens of thousands of words that I have published on the topic while living in the West Bank and Gaza during two extended assignments in 2003 and 2005—all of which is easily accessible and none of which appears anywhere in their three letters.

It was not the litany of gross human rights violations that I witnessed and presented on in detail at UVic that angered Brandt and Scarnati—crimes that include stone-throwing children being shot by Israeli soldiers in 62-tonne tanks, relentless Israeli air force attacks by F16 fighter jets and Apache helicopters day and night over Gaza killing hundreds of civilians, an imposed humanitarian crisis in Gaza that is used as a military tactic by Israel, bombed out and bullet-riddled Palestinian schools and hospitals, and on and on. . . . Instead, they are compelled to action by the invented disposition of the presenter in an attempt to distract from the substance of the first-hand account.

A dubious endeavour at the best of times, Scarnati and Brandt's expression is made all the more contemptable in light of the fact that the Palestinian catastrophe is an existent reality, not an abstract debate.

-Jon Elmer

Pimp 'n' ho party offensive

Last week's "Pimps 'N Ho's" party ("It's hard out there for an April Fool's Pimp" *Martlet*, March 30) seemed inappropriate and misguided. Prostitution is not something to celebrate. I am sure that the people who attended the event had a great evening, but did they realize what they were mimicking?

Hundreds of Victoria women and men regularly sell their bodies in order to make rent payments, buy groceries, and feed their children. In the process many are physically assaulted, sexually abused, and subject to a high risk of contracting deadly diseases. They are a marginalized, isolated and extremely vulnerable population. Prostitution is not fun, exciting, or glamorous, and it was upsetting the see that someone, somewhere, had momentarily forgotten this in their effort to throw a successful party.

Costumed events are great, but I think that the constant and disturbing violence that prostitutes regularly experience made the "pimps and ho" theme of this party unacceptable and offensive. I know the pressure to be politically correct can be excessive, but prostitution is a sensitive subject for valid reasons.

For those who planned, promoted, and attended the event, please stop and think. We live in a society where life is hard for many. Let's not make it worse by feting their misfortune.

-Liz Morrison

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Dealing with stress

I couldn't care less about how you're feeling about end of the year frustrations

by Melanie Greene

Maybe it's a year's worth of concentrating on long and often boring readings, spitting out papers, hungover lectures, all-night study sessions or that exams are driving towards me like a 16-wheeler out of *Maximum Overdrive*, but man do I hate school right now.

I know that I should be able to deal with stress by this point in my fourth year, suck up the pain of staying up all night to write term papers about topics that I can't bring my self to care about and just plow through it. But I can't.

April 26, the day of my last exam, can't come quick enough. At 10:03 a.m.—about the time I'll have finished spewing everything I know about the philosophy of physics into a booklet and started to breathe again—I will begin a week-long bender to end the hellish school year of all hellish school years.

Everyone around me feels the same way. So, in the mean time, what can we do to deal with the pain caused by the end-of-the-year crunch?

Personally, I've taken to drinking more often. I've always loved the belly-warming comfort of a lukewarm Lucky (from the 8-pack, of course), but lately I've been loving the comfort of the 'there's-no-way-I'm-getting-to-sleep-without-drinking-at-least-three' Lucky. Unhealthy?

Sure. But no more unhealthy than the fact that I haven't been to the gym in two weeks, I've secretly become best-friends with cigs, I've replaced water and food with coffee, and my dirty laundry basket is overflowing into the parking lot of my building.

There are probably some healthy alternatives to my personal stress-relief strategies. Apparently UVic has a stress clinic and I'm sure that taking out some pent-up work-overload rage on a treadmill would be beneficial. But, for whatever reason, neither of these options seems appealing to me. I've also considered some calming tea instead of chugging back beer or whatever leftover hard liquor I have in the freezer before bed, but again, that idea is pretty much the only laugh I get lately.

Most stress management websites I've found suggest things like meditation, yoga and relaxing music or imagery. Unfortunately, these suggestions seem to feed my anger and I find that the tension I've been feeling makes me feel much more like enrolling in a boxing class or heading to a metal show to dominate the mosh pit.

I'm not alone here, either. As the end of the year approaches, more tearful eyes exit the library and more walls feel the punches and kicks invoked by disappointing grades. At least we're all in this together, right?

Well, I don't care about you. In my current state of panic I've stopped caring how anyone else feels. I'm writing this article purely out of the need to rant about my frustration and couldn't really care less if it makes you feel better about your own school woes. I'd love to open up to a friend about it, but then I run the risk of having to listen to them rant in return, and frankly I just don't have time to listen to anyone else whine.

So, if you feel reading this has been totally unhelpful and now you're even more strapped for precious time, go complain to someone else—I don't care.

Fuck this, I'm out.

Prime Ministers lack leadership qualities

Canadian politicians need to put in extra effort to motivate the people

by Clarke Ries

As the three most powerful men in North America wrap up their summit in Cancun, it's a good time for us to reflect on what Canadian politics need more of: Charisma. Frankly, we haven't had it since Pierre Trudeau. I speak up now because it's time to recognize that our last few fearless leaders are near the bottom of the barrel when it comes to pizzazz.

For all his slick moves both in and out of parliament, Chrétien was not exactly Canada's ambassador to the world when it came to charm (for example, consider how he literally throttled a protestor, his inability to speak either national language grammatically, the aura of sleaze). Despite a distinctly spotty record on just about everything, including keeping records, he was miles above Paul Martin, who radiated the resolve of a limp noodle and the tact of Attila the Hun. Regrettably, both of them still manage to outclass the latest executive brain trust.

Now we have Stephen Harper. That he won the latest election primarily by keeping his trap shut should have had the air raid sirens going in Ottawa. Harper's total unwillingness to dialogue (or even monologue) with Canadians since taking command has done nothing to help his image. If anything, Harper has managed to become the most important hermit in Canada, at the cost of what patience we have left for federal politics. Of course, when Harper does scuttle out of hiding, as with this meeting in Cancun with George W. and Mexican President Vicente Fox, the travesty is enough to make you wish he'd stayed barricaded inside 24 Sussex.

Forget men's hockey losing to Switzerland at the Olympics—all it takes is a quick Google search for photos from the Cancun summit to make the average Canadian cry like a baby. Fox, Bush and Harper are all standing together for the shot, and both Fox and Bush look like leaders. Harper, on the other hand, has on what is possibly a two-piece fishing vest and probably the most stupid looking outfit since the Village People. While style is by far not the most important quality a leader can have, I'd feel much more pride in being Canadian if our chief didn't dress like Krusty the Klown on vacation.

The latest prime ministers are poster children for what just may be the biggest failing in Canadian politics: a complete lack of leadership. Sure, I'd rather have a competent government than *the OC* in office, but there's more to leading the people than good money sense and a PhD. Among the qualities of a great leader is the ability to motivate and inspire—to drive the everyman from sloth and potato chips into revolution and change. As much as we would like to believe otherwise, it takes someone who has not only brains, but also personality to unite a country and lead them forth.

To some, it may sound like I'm advocating for slick campaign speeches, lofty promises and media darlings. They're right.

Every time a politician kisses a baby and wins a riding, something grates in all of us. It's a reminder that in the end, we're still animals with a weakness for strong jaw lines and empty gestures like smiles. That said, maybe it's time to embrace the fact that humans aren't robots, that we do feel more at peace when we know the people sitting for us in the House of Commons look strong, act confident and have a way with crowds.

If it takes some extra effort from our leaders to be more photogenic and give a few stirring speeches, the payoff is the gut reaction that makes us all feel some optimism and motivation that's been missing in federal politics for a very long time.

UVSS election politics is a farce

No wonder student voter turnout is so low

by Dallas Henault

What would you buy if someone just gave you $136 right on the spot?

For me, $136 is a trip home to visit my family in Kelowna. For one of my roommates, it is a student loan payment. For another, it is five cases of beer—and not the cheap American stuff either. For most of us, $136 keeps food on the table for more than two weeks.

So why is it that voter turnout for UVSS elections is so low considering full-time students pay the UVSS that much money each year?

I always wondered that before, but this year that question was answered. When a system becomes broken and tarnished, people become disillusioned.

They pay the fee only because they have to, not because they realize they have any control over how the money is spent, or expect anything back for it. "Just another fee I have no control over and have to pay in order to graduate" is the attitude of most.

What people usually expect from their elected representatives and those who seek elected office is passion and commitment, not desperation and fear.

But desperation and fear is what we have seen in the past two weeks from current UVSS chairperson and candidate Penny Beames in her attempts to have one of her opponents disqualified.

And when the news stories for two weeks following the election display this kind of desperation and fear, people become disillusioned, and want to hear nothing about it anymore.

When I ran for chairperson in 2004, my opponent and future chairperson, Joanna Groves, wanted to win. Although I may disagree with Joanna on almost every scale imaginable, my respect for her never wavered, and I never doubted her intentions. What drove Groves was the desire to win, not the fear of loss.

Fast forward to 2006, and the current chairperson and candidate for the position has the exact opposite qualities that Groves possessed. She is so scared of losing and facing the voters that she has taken the process to the depths of desperation.

During the election period, Mike Waters filed a complaint against Beames for making an untrue comment about his campaign platform in last year's election.

The chief electoral officer acted within his powers, and made his judgment call—she was not disqualified for uttering the lie.

Waters respected the ruling and moved on.

When the electoral committee determined that neither Beames nor Waters should be disqualified for their later complaints, Waters accepted the decision while Beames filed an appeal with the current board of directors.

To my knowledge, an opposing candidate has never appealed an electoral committee's decision to overturn the disqualification of their opponent.

Basically, Beames has decided that someone's decision—possibly even that of the voters—is not to her liking.

Until the system is fixed, voters will remain disillusioned, as will potential candidates. What good is a system if a candidate who does not like the process can take it to a board where she or he potentially can control the outcome?

UVSS members deserve far better than this.

They deserve far better than a candidate who cannot lose.

Until this happens, I feel quite comfortable placing a bet—say $136—on low voter turnout and continued disillusionment with UVSS elections for many years to come.

Dallas Henault was a candidate for chairperson in 2004. He is a friend of Mike Waters and helped him coordinate the Students for Students slate with building team momentum and making sure all the "little" things were done. He is currently president of the BC Young Liberals and is graduating from UVic this month.

The Weakerthans: flirting with the mainstream

Winnipeg's rock royalty take the stage at UVic with some new tunes and a penchant for Sarah Harmer

What: UVic Grad Party 2006 with Cheap Ass Buddha, The Weakerthans and Wide Mouth Mason
Where: UVic Student Union Building
When: Saturday, April 8 from 9 p.m. to 4 a.m.
How much: $5 for grads, $25 for guests, visit www.uvss.uvic.ca

by Matt Grady

Say *Chart* magazine publishes its poll of the 50 Best Canadian Albums of All Time, and your album makes the top 10 alongside classic LPs from Neil Young, Joni Mitchell, The Tragically Hip and Sloan. How do you respond to such glowing praise? If you're a member of The Weakerthans, you take it with a grain of salt.

"I think my opinion was that there is no way we should have been higher than NoMeansNo," laughs Stephen Carroll, lead guitarist and backing vocalist for the Winnipeg-based indie rock band. "As soon as you start having to classify bands in a numerical ranking, it always gets a little wacky. I think we need a new opinion about opinions in music: people should keep it to themselves."

John Samson, once a punk-rock bassist for Propagandhi, formed The Weakerthans in 1997. He sings lead vocals and plays guitar alongside Carroll, Jason Tait on drums and Greg Smith on bass. 2000's *Left and Leaving* won the 2001 Prairie Music Award for Best Independent Album, and 2003's *Reconstruction Site* won awards for Best Independent Album, Best Songwriter and Best Album Design at the 2004 Western Canada Music Awards.

"Nobody gets first place in these kinds of things," says Carroll about the awards. "It's decided by some arcane voting system—votes cast by people who don't necessarily know anything about your band. Some do, some don't. It might be a unique-to-be-Canadian thing where we really champion our local artists, and then these awards are the offshoots. So we accept that. We embrace it."

After the release of *Reconstruction Site*, The Weakerthans toured heavily until late 2005, including a New Year's Eve 2004 concert opening for The Tragically Hip in Hamilton, Ont.

"We had a wonderful time. It was really a total trip to play for over 10,000 people in the arena, and there too we had some fears, but none of those came to be. We were really well received."

PROVIDED PHOTO

John K. Samson, center, co-founded Arbeiter Ring Publishing.

With impressive awards and performances across North America and Europe already under their belt, are The Weakerthans still only flirting with the mainstream?

"I think we have achieved a comfortable balance, where we're able to get access to the best of both worlds," says Carroll. "We can play these shows with The Tragically Hip and then we can play an all-ages show in Boston. And I think it represents who we are as people, too, to be in this position—people who love pop music, but have grown up with a sense of ethics that stems from a punk rock heritage. And I think that plays out in the way we do things today."

Last fall, The Weakerthans collaborated with Sarah Harmer on an acoustic performance at CBC's Glenn Gould Studio.

"We learned a song of hers and she learned a song of ours, and she played with us and we played with her. It was a great night." The band is also at work on a new album. "We've been plucking away at the songs over the winter, and it's starting to take some shape," says Carroll.

Despite Samson's early fears of signing to a major label, the band's move to Epitaph Records has been a happy one. "None of those fears have been realized," says Carroll. "That's why we went with them; we knew what we were getting into. We knew they wouldn't make those demands."

On *Reconstruction Site*'s tragicomic single "One Great City," Samson drawls out the refrain "I hate Winnipeg." But despite the band's love/hate relationship with their hometown, have they ever been eager to leave?

"Being in a rock band has provided a convenient excuse to leave this city frequently enough, so you're never bored," says Carroll, "and you're always happy to come home."

Visit www.theweakerthans.org for upcoming shows. The Weakerthans' performance with Sarah Harmer airs Saturday, April 8 after 7:30 p.m. on CBC Radio Two.

SuperModels exhibit shows off inventive miniatures

What: SuperModels art exhibit
Where: Open Space, 510 Fort
When: April 7 to May 6, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m., opening April 7 @ 8 p.m.
How much: Free

by David Karp

Proving that size really does matter, the Open Space art gallery's new exhibit, SuperModels, will showcase everything from tiny foam furniture to massive landscapes that have been photographed to look like scale models.

The exhibit features cutting-edge work from four unique artists.

"It's really interesting how these artists are playing with scale and space," says Tamsin Clark, a senior sessional instructor at UVic and one of the exhibit's curators. "We were looking at slides of their work, and this sort of light bulb went off."

According to Ted Hiebert, SuperModels' other curator, the exhibit should get viewers thinking. "[It] examines the relationship between real and imaginary," says Hiebert. "A lot of art is a one-trick-pony type of work, but these artists have really strong aesthetics."

UVic grad Chris Gillespie is one of the artists participating in SuperModels. He makes tiny models of furniture out of foam core, which is essentially a slab of foam sandwiched between two pieces of paper.

Gillespie says he's always had an affinity for furniture. "My apartment is pretty small and I've got too much furniture, so some of it is in storage," he explains. "At one point, it was hard to get the door open because there'd be furniture in the way."

Although Gillespie wants to leave interpretation of his work up to each person, he says he finds many aspects of furniture intriguing and thought-provoking.

"Who made it? Who purchased it? Why did they purchase it?" he asks. "It's something so simple, but so curious."

Hiebert says Gillespie's art works on a variety of levels. "He situates himself between Ikea and high modernist sculpture."

SuperModels also shows off the work of a second Victoria artist, Tim van Wijk, whose *Right of Way* is a 36-foot (11-metre) model of a powerline. "There's a fabulous blue wall we've painted for it," says curator Clark.

"You've got a nature versus culture distinction," Hiebert says of van Wijk's work. "It represents human intervention into the natural landscape."

Toni Hafkenscheid's photos will also be on display.

Born in the Netherlands, Hafkenscheid lived in Toronto for six years before returning home to Amsterdam.

Using depth-of-field photographic technology, he has taken photographs of real-life landscapes and architecture that look as if they were actually snapshots of miniature models.

"You get these surreal-looking images," says Hiebert. "It takes a few moments to realize they're actually photos."

Duncan MacKenzie, an artist from Chicago, also has his work on display in the exhibit.

He makes miniature models and also photographs some of his own work.

Hiebert explains that the exhibit is not unlike a novel, if you're more the literary type.

"A book can't be completely fiction—it has to be grounded in reality somehow," he says. "But it gives people the chance to consider their own life as well.

"I think the works intensify from being played off one another. You hope the works start to speak with a different voice when you put them together."

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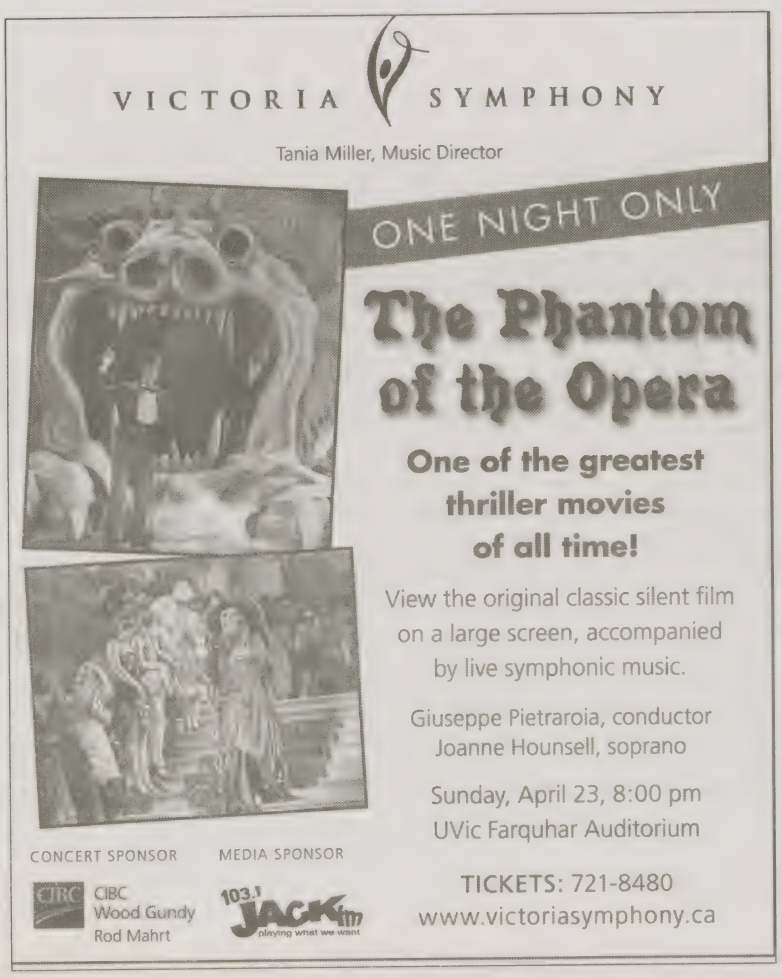
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California dreaming with The 88

The soundtrack stars tour with Matt Costa in support of their spiffy new disc, *Over and Over*

What: Matt Costa with The 88
Where: Central Bar and Grill, 708 View
When: Thursday, April 6, doors @ 8 p.m.
Cost: $10, tickets at Lyle's Place, Ditch Records, Central B&G

by Steve Carey

PROVIDED PHOTO

The group made a name for themselves by contributing to soundtracks for TV shows *The OC* and *How I Met Your Mother.*

Driving in a convertible on a sunny day, hitch-hiking up the coast or hanging out at the soda bar with your main squeeze—The 88 have a retro-pop sound that evokes all those images and more.

When the L.A. quintet's single, "How Good Can It Be", appeared on the soundtrack to *The OC*, they moved into major rotation on rock and pop radio, expanding their fanbase throughout the U.S. The group are playing their first Canadian date in Victoria, with Brushfire recording artist Matt Costa.

The 88 have a hip, mod aesthetic and a clean sound that begs to be heard on a vintage tube amplifier or through the car stereo in your uncle's cherry-red Firebird. Singer and guitarist Keith Slettedahl and pianist Adam Merrin met in high school and have been playing music together ever since. They formed a few groups before The 88, which came together in early 2002. Their first album, *Kind of Light*, was released in 2003.

"Our fanbase is all over the place. You look at our crowds and you'll see really young teenagers and people who are in their 40s and 50s," says Merrin, on the phone the day after a sold-out show in Anaheim. "The younger ones would have heard of us from the TV shows . . . [and] the older people really hear The Beatles, the Stones and The Kinks influences in our music."

Their name comes from a French Kicks song called "The 88". Merrin is also quick to point out the 88 keys on a piano, the 88 constellations and that it seemed like a name chock full of symbolism.

The California-based five-piece are TV and media darlings, recently appearing in the CBS show *How I Met Your Mother* and on late-night talk shows. They covered a Queen song for the *Failure to Launch* soundtrack, and they liked the tune so much they now mix it in with their live set.

"We made [*Kind of Light*] and had no idea it would find its way into all these TV shows," says Merrin. "We were approached by the music supervisor of [*The OC*] and she just became a fan. . . . It's definitely helped broaden our audience."

Since the September release of their second disc, *Over and Over*, the group have been on the road.

"We're completely looking forward to it," says Merrin of their first Canadian gig. "I've heard so many great things about Victoria."

The band recently purchased a 15-passenger van for touring. Merrin was installing a PlayStation 2 in it to pass the time before leaving Anaheim, but they're not as extravagant as mobile video games might imply. The 88 don't have a rider or crazy demands—they just ask for bottled water and Red Bull to get ready before a show.

No one in the band drinks alcohol before performing, since they want to do the best job possible. They're surprisingly humble and talkative guys, a rarity among California's glut of rockers on the rise.

Guitarist Brandon Jay took the phone from Merrin halfway through the interview and cracked jokes about his mop top of curly hair, which he calls "an adventure," and a very different L.A. rock band, Guns 'n' Roses.

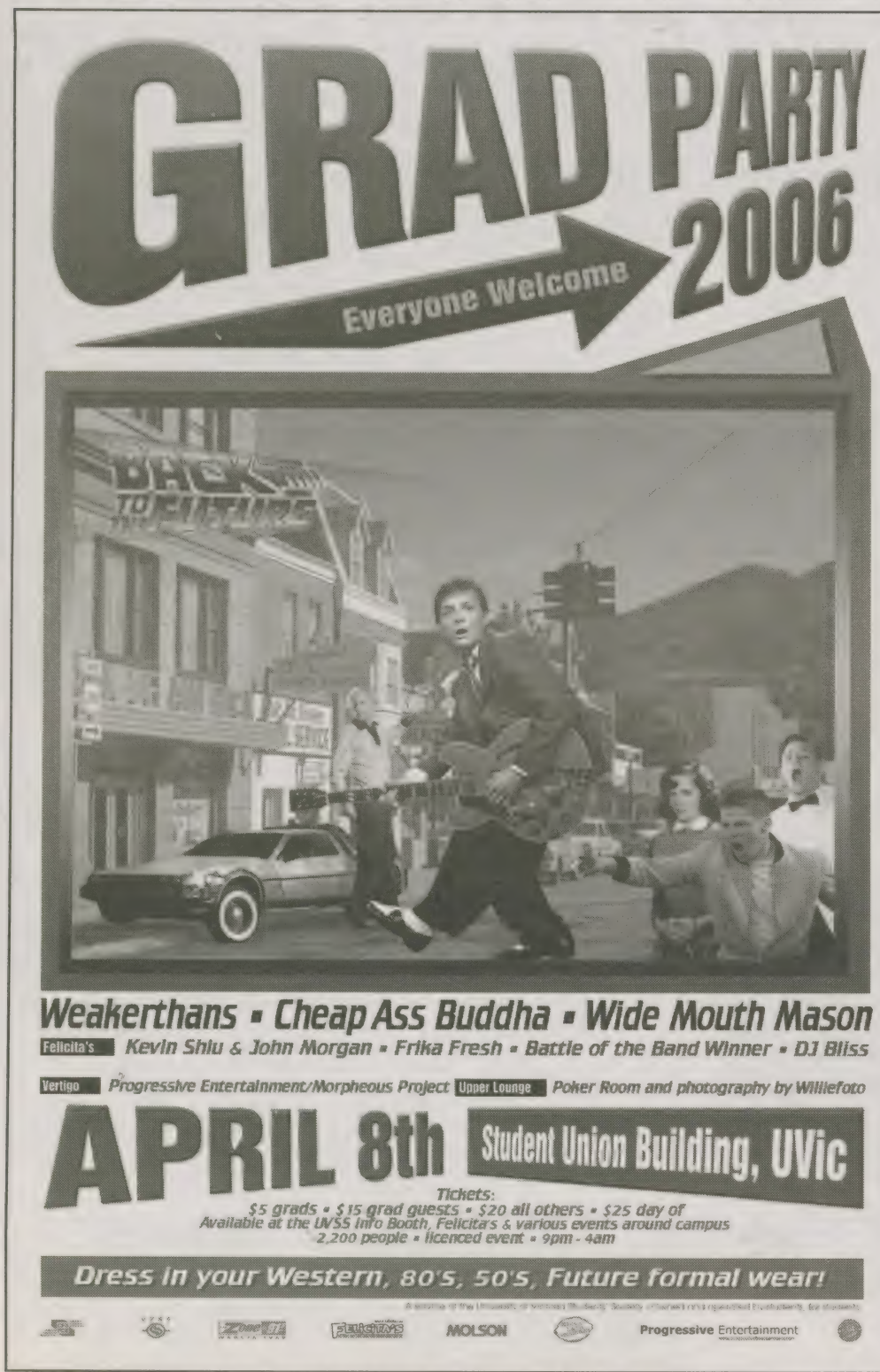
The 88's label, EMK/Mootron, covers distribution and packaging of the CDs, but the band relies mostly on self-promotion to get the word out.

"The day to day is basically the band," says Jay. "There really isn't a staff or anything—it's just us . . . we're basically the record label."

According to Jay, everyone has separate influences, and they try to bring them all to the table when it's time to work.

Singer Keith Slettedahl likes a lot of country, and they all like old soul and R&B. The bands they come across while touring become sources of inspiration as well. Jay recommended Richard Swift, Cold War Kids and Octomutt, who they recently toured with.

"Playing live is our best medium," says Jay. "Keith, the singer, has an amazing voice, and he really goes for it live. The band has a lot of energy. The whole thing with wearing suits when we play live is that we suit up, take it seriously and put on a good show. We put a lot into it."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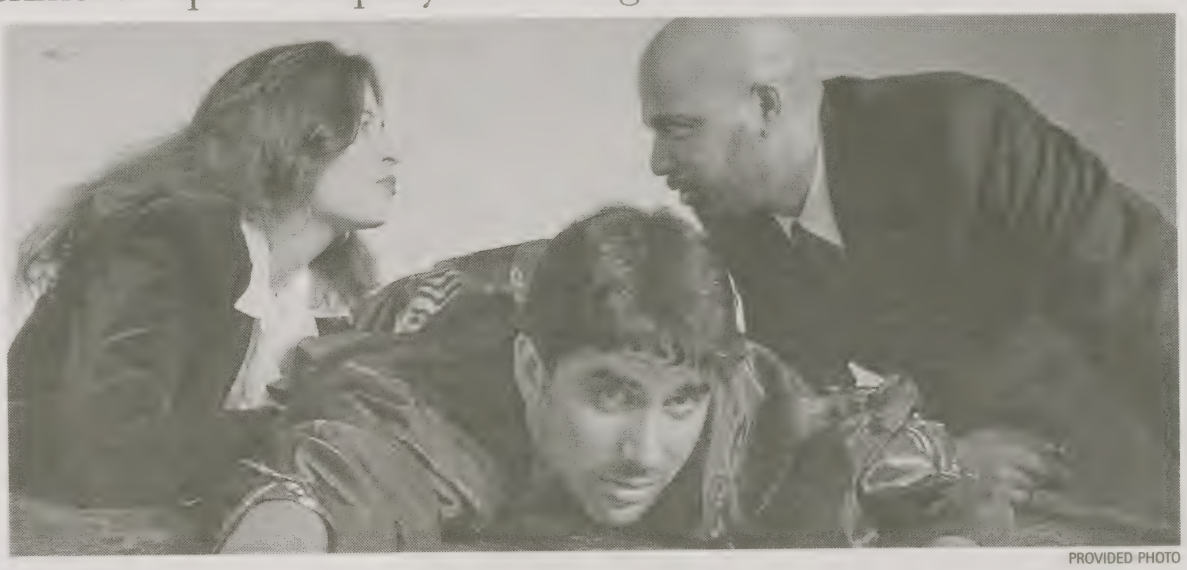
Othello in the 21st century

Canada's premier experimental opera company stitches together a monster musical in *The Third Taboo*

What: Out of the Box Productions' *The Third Taboo*
Where: Metro Studio, 1411 Quadra
When: April 6 to 15 @ 8 p.m.
How much: $15 to $20, call 386-6121

by Deborah Daudin



PROVIDED PHOTO

From left, Charlene Donovan as Desdemona, Thrasso Petras as Iago, and Vanya Abrahams as Othello.

Jealousy—that age-old monster that steals into our lives like an uninvited guest—steps onto the Metro stage in Out of the Box Productions' newest creation, *The Third Taboo*.

Many Victorians will remember the company's inaugural show, *Opera Erotique*, which attracted a diverse audience with its fusion of opera, theatre and dance. Their latest project, an innovative adaptation of *Othello*, will not disappoint its followers.

The company has been in residence at the Banff Centre for the past week, putting together the final touches of the show before its April 6 opening in Victoria. It was a stroke of luck that I happened to be spending a few days in Banff at the same time and was able to talk to Gwen Dobie, founder and co-artistic director for Out of the Box Productions. I even caught an open rehearsal of the show.

Based on Giraldi Cinthio's *Hecatommithi* (the source of Shakespeare's *Othello*), *The Third Taboo* was inspired by a Canadian collection of poems on jealousy bearing the same title. The script interweaves text from the Shakespeare play, lines from the selected poems, and opera arias from several composers. Such demanding content required an extraordinarily talented cast of artists to transform the work from page to stage.

In Dobie's experience, "when you're working with edgy stuff, you need to work with people who know the rules. And it's only when you are working with people who know the rules that you can then start to break the rules."

Dobie's varied artistic training has given her the competence to work with opera singers, dancers and actors. After graduating from the University of Windsor's school of dramatic art, Dobie furthered her training in different movement styles and spent three years in Italy, where she became a certified teacher of the Alexander Technique. She worked in Banff and Victoria, first as the stage director and manager of the Opera Studio at the Victoria Conservatory of Music, then as movement teacher and choreographer for the Opera-as-Theatre program at the Banff Centre. It was only natural that, sooner or later, she would feel the need to create her own vision of performance art, and her collaboration with William Mackwood (co-artistic director, writer and designer for the show) has allowed her to do just that.

Over the past 20 years, working with fusion has become more of a standard than an artistic experiment. Dobie believes there is a natural transition from dramatic speech to classical singing. "When you are working with spoken text and you have a dramatic line that requires a certain emotion, sometimes the most appropriate way to express that emotion is with an aria," says Dobie.

Another concern in mounting this type of production lies in finding the right music to suit both the context and as the singers' voices, and then adapting the opera components for an experimental format, says Dobie.

"We have to respect the original intent the composers had and hope that opera purists will not be offended if they don't hear an aria in its entirety."

Shows are at 8 p.m., but come early and stay late, as the venue will be licensed for a unique "Lounge Opera Experience."

CD | CAVALCADE OF THE SCARS

Various Artists
Cavalcade of the Scars
Self Righteous Records

by Aaron Cox

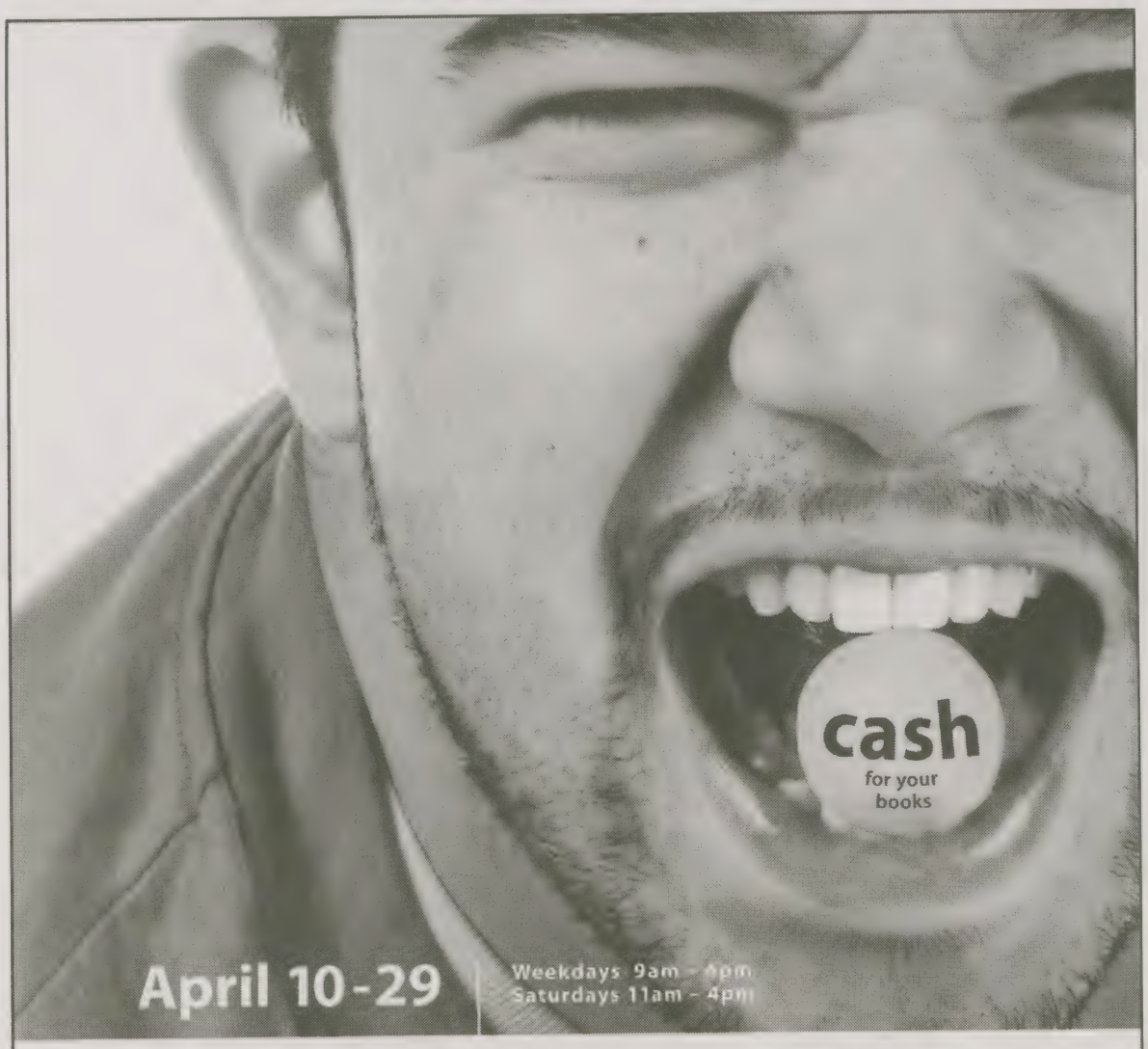
If you have no idea what a cavalcade is, if you don't like live music—if you've never heard of David Hasselhoff—chances are you've *still* seen one of the bands on Self Righteous Records' recent compilation, *Cavalcade of the Scars*.

Full up with 20 clean-sounding, neatly mastered tracks from a score of Victoria bands and musicians, Cavalcade is a tasty smorgasbord of the Island music scene, offering up impressive singles from Dante Decaro, David P. Smith, Hank Pine & Lily Fawn, and a *Martlet* favourite, Chet.

Pop by Logan's Pub and ask a regular who these people are. In answer, you'll get a lengthy recollection of casual, often tipsy performances from musicians who've spent more time onstage at Logan's than they have starching collars, waiting at red lights, or trying to remember the name of that guy from that movie whose name you can't quite remember.

MeatDraw's "Hostage's Lullabye" makes a surefire attraction for Bright Eyes fans, even if you think Conor Oberst could use a good, hard slap and a cup of black coffee. Hank & Lily's "David Hasselhoff" showcases the über-cute duo's kitschy, pared-down comic rock. (Have a listen to their "One Finger Salute" for another good laugh.)

Doc Jenkins' silky pedal-steel guitar layers under a twangy acoustic as Clay George croons an ode to Victoria, and *Cavalcade* is an ode in its own right—a warm-hearted tribute to some of the city's most accomplished musicians, and a great way for curious audiences to sample the Island's sexiest exports.



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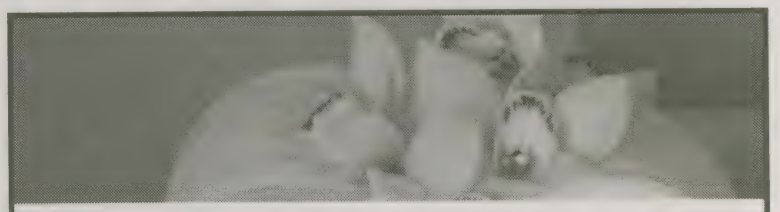

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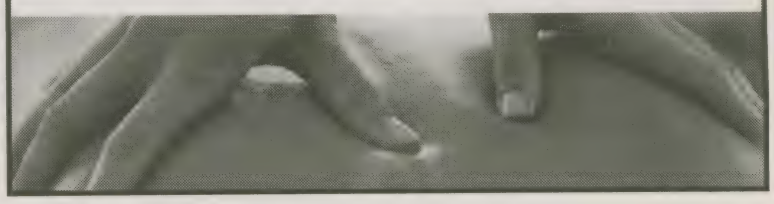
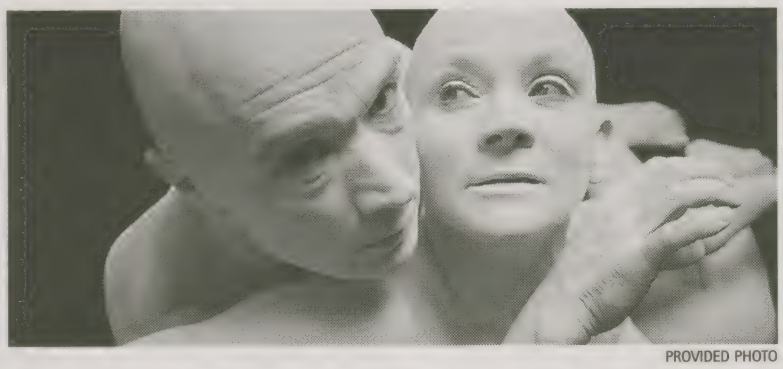


Japanese fusion, in the flesh

Vancouver's Kokoro Dance brings *Sunyata* to Victoria, complete with body paint, vats of mud and precious little clothing

What: Kokoro Dance's *Sunyata*
Where: McPherson Playhouse, #3 Centennial Square
When: April 7 & 8 @ 8 p.m.
How Much: $25 to $39, call 386-6121

by Micah Luxen



PROVIDED PHOTO

Koroko Dance founders Jay Hirabayashi, left, and Barbara Bourget.

For nearly 20 years, partners Barbara Bourget and Jay Hirabayashi have answered the West Coast's ever-increasing demand for butoh, a form of Japanese modern dance, by merging the Eastern style with their own Western influences. The result is Kokoro Dance's *Sunyata*, an acclaimed three-part performance inspired by etchings from Dante's *The Divine Comedy*.

"I'm interested in communicating with other people about the state of what it means to be human: experience, sensation, our desires, our errors, what we love," says Kokoro co-founder Bourget.

In the butoh style, dancers appear vulnerable, fearful, and sometimes naked, swathed in white body paint.

"When you have the naked body in dance, you can really see the body working. Clothing often hides and masks the incredible lines the body can make—the muscles, the [bone structure]," explains Bourget.

Bourget explains that the wife of butoh pioneer Tatsumi Hijikata was a ballet dancer, and when he wanted to put her in a work of his, he asked her to dance nude. She expressed her discomfort, and Hijikata suggested white body paint, which allowed his wife a measure of modesty and comfort.

"You don't feel nude when your body's painted," says Bourget. "It's a costume. It takes away some of the issues with gender [and] the issues with age."

Sunyata's eight dancers are not merely painted white. In the first piece, the dancers emerge from a vat of red-brown mud, covered from head to toe. "It's very beautiful and harrowing—very sensual," says Bourget. "In this section of the dance, the mud starts to dry, so it changes in texture and there's a lot of dynamic."

First performed in Vancouver in 1991, *Sunyata* was inspired by the engravings of Gustave Doré, a 19th-century French artist, in an illustrated edition of *The Divine Comedy*.

Of *Sunyata*, producer Stephen White of the Victoria Dance Series says, "It's sculptural, for people who have never seen it before. It's like the body in space, moreso than you see in ballet."

The unconventional butoh experience doesn't stop with colour-coded dancers.

"The audience is necessary, otherwise it wouldn't be a performance," says Bourget. "With the performing arts, the beauty of that relationship is that it only happens in performance, and it cannot be repeated. There's the moment when the audience sits rapt, and you could hear a pin drop."

But audience enthusiasm and critical acclaim don't come easy, even to an experienced choreographer like Bourget.

"We get our work out to as many audiences as we can, but the life of being an artist is a challenge." In addition to choreographer and dancer, Bourget plays the role of wife, soccer mom and administrator for Kokoro Dance.

"Sometimes your faith begins to fail you and you think, 'How am I going to make it through another year, and how are we going to pay for the kids' schooling?' But then you think, 'In the past, it's always worked out,' and you have to return to faith in the artwork itself."

White confirms the predicament of the artist.

"There's a lot of financial tension because, with the arts, you're reliant on grants . . . or the generosity of donors and sponsors. So you can have great plans, but often you don't know until the last minute whether you're going to get the money to do it."

Both White and Bourget encourage art patrons to write letters to all levels of government, championing the arts and requesting more government aid.

"In France, there's a political will to maintain their culture, and one of the ways of doing that, of course, is to fund the arts," says Bourget. "It's a priority for them, and it should be a priority for everyone else."

CD | JANIVA MAGNESS, KATRAY

Janiva Magness
Do I Move You?
Northern Blue

by Seth Cooper

The woman with the name that sounds like "vagina" is back, and this time, as the promotional sticker on the front cover of the CD says, she will not be denied.

With a persona described by music critics as "sexy," "sultry," and "seductive," Janiva Magness offers more of the same on her sixth album, *Do I Move You?* Her marketing image is hard to miss, as the CD relies heavily on sex throughout, from the front cover that showcases Janiva's substantial boobs, front and center, to her honey-dripping tracklist. Flip open the liner notes, where Janiva unabashedly professes to be "a hussy . . . not afraid of my age, my sexuality, my truth."

Beyond the heavy-handed sexual packaging, it's apparent that Janiva's musical talents are immense. She demonstrates her range on this disc as she moves track to track, from a gentle crooning on "You Were Never Mine" to all out blues-rock on "Stealin' Sugar." The innuendo comes to a climax at the end of the disc on "A Man Size Job," an ode to sexual relations with younger men.

Yet despite her impressive vocals, one gets the impression that Janiva is not trying to push the boundaries of blues music. Her above-average voice is but one of many instruments in what is largely a blues cover band, and she seems comfortable carving out her niche with salaciousness rather than musical talent.

Janiva seems destined for the occasional spin on your parents' CD player, but her disc will likely only see action on those special nights of red wine and satin sheets, when the kids are out of the house and the 'rents are feeling like hussies.

Katray
Remade Live
Burn It Records

by Wesley Scott

Punk rock is pretty much the simplest genre of music, but simple doesn't mean boring. Montreal duo Katray's latest release, *Remade Live*, delivers 12 extremely drawn-out tracks of poor blues-styled punk. While it *is* a live punk album and perfection shouldn't be expected, the excessive repetition and lack of talent are simply inexcusable.

Dull three-chord electric guitar riffs mingle with bad slap bass and a plodding drum machine.

Both the male and female vocals are sub-par, even by punk rock standards. However, a few tracks, like "Johnny Rotten" and "Quick Fix," are cool and upbeat, rare standouts on this largely monotonous release. Even the drum machine (which is clearly synthesized and laid overtop of the live track) can't match the band's broken rhythm.

Two-person bands don't have to sound bad—like them or not, The White Stripes and Death From Above 1979 have shown that in spades.

However, Katray isn't a total failure. The duo offers great guitar solos, cool album art, and proof that anyone can make an album if they try.

If Katray cut the average song time from five to three minutes and scrapped the drum machine, *Remade Live* could have been a lot better.

Even to blues/punk fanatics, Katray's first live recording is a hard sell and a grating aural experience.

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Too much rookie talent for one Calder trophy

Ovechkin will likely get the NHL hardware for the league's rookie of the year, but any other year it could have been Crosby or Lundqvist or Phaneuf

by David Karp

Crosby and Ovechkin: If not household names already, they will be soon.

The top NHL draft picks from 2004 and 2005 play for the two worst teams in the Eastern Conference and have no chance of making playoffs, but Sidney Crosby and Alexander Ovechkin are living up to the hype that surrounds them.

Before this season started, fans and pundits expected Crosby and Ovechkin to be the NHL's top rookies, but when the Calder Memorial Trophy for rookie of the year is given out at the NHL awards June 22 in Vancouver, the Russian will likely take home the hardware. His flashy moves have earned him a great deal of respect, and you can tell from watching him that Ovechkin loves the game.

While Crosby has had a stellar season, he hasn't been as successful—despite playing alongside veterans like Mario Lemieux early in the season. The young Penguin has struggled with the adjustment to the pros, often losing his cool. Meanwhile, Ovechkin has done more with less in Washington—the Capitals lack high quality players to support the Russian phenom.

Because of the 2004–05 lockout, the crop of rookies this season is larger than usual. In other years, the excellent goaltending of New York Ranger Henrik Lundqvist or the power play ability of Calgary defenceman Dion Phaneuf would be all the rage, but they've been overshadowed by the performances of Ovechkin and Crosby.

The burgeoning superstars—because that's the only status for two athletes of such caliber—may not have much in common.

Ovechkin hails from Moscow, the Russian capital with a population of more than 10 million. Crosby grew up in small-town Nova Scotia and played junior hockey in small-town Quebec. Ovechkin likes hip-hop and techno music. Crosby likes Three Doors Down. Ovechkin prefers pasta. Crosby likes Chinese. What these hockey luminaries do have in common is raw talent and an ability to put the puck in the net.

Sport runs through Ovechkin's blood. His father was a professional soccer player and his mother was a two-time Olympic gold medallist in basketball.

The 20-year-old Ovechkin is leading an inexperienced Washington Capitals team and he's doing phenomenally well without a strong cast to support him. He could be one of the few players to reach the 50-goal plateau this year, a milestone that hasn't been reached since the 2002–03 season. He's second in the NHL in goals and third in points. And he's persistent—with 379 attempts, Ovechkin has taken more shots on goal than any other player in the league.

In Pittsburgh, Crosby lives with his boss, who happens to be retired hockey great and Penguins chairman Mario Lemieux. Although he's only 18, Crosby will have to do a lot to live up to people's high hopes. In 51 games with Rimouski Oceanic in the Quebec junior league he scored 54 goals and tallied 135 points. Only Gretzky nabbed more points as a 16-year-old.

ANTHONY FRATTAROLI GRAPHIC

But the Great One isn't passing off the torch quite yet. Gretzky left Crosby off Canada's roster for the 2006 Olympics in Torino, a highly questionable choice given Canada's poor showing at the Games. Ovechkin, on the other hand, scored the game-winning goal to knock Canada out of the running in the quarter-finals.

While Crosby is tenth in the league with 85 points, his numbers don't match Ovechkin's. Crosby only has 33 goals with a Pittsburgh team that is last in the NHL.

The Crosby/Ovechkin rivalry will be one to watch in coming years. The players turn it on when they play each other—in their four meetings to date, Crosby has nine points to Ovechkin's six.

"He's definitely dangerous when he's out there," Crosby said of Ovechkin in November. "He's someone I'm sure other teams have to watch."

"I think we are different players," Ovechkin said of Crosby, also earlier this season. "He's a great passer and he sees the ice real well."

If this year's group of rookies represents what the future holds for the NHL, commissioner Gary Bettman should have nothing to worry about.

OTHER ROOKIES OF NOTE

Colby Armstrong

The 23-year-old right winger from Saskatchewan started the season in the American Hockey League, but the Pittsburgh Penguins called him up to play his first NHL game on Dec. 29.

Now, Armstrong has cemented a spot on the Pens' top line alongside Sidney Crosby. The partnership seems to be working. Armstrong has 29 points in 38 games and has a plus-seven rating on a struggling Pittsburgh team.

Henrik Lundqvist

Swedish goalie Lundqvist backstopped his national team to a gold medal in Torino and he'll be looking to add a Stanley Cup to his season as he takes a strong New York Rangers team into the playoffs. Lundqvist, a seventh-round draft pick, is third in the NHL with a .924 save percentage. The 24-year-old tender is the first Ranger to get 30 wins in a season since Mike Richter did so nine seasons ago.

Dion Phaneuf

The 200-pound Canadian Hockey League defenceman of the year has been an indispensable member of the Calgary Flames' blue line this season. He's one of the most dangerous players in the league on the power play—he leads all defencemen with 15 power play goals this season. Come playoff time, the first-round draft pick will be looking to add to his gold medal from the 2005 World Juniors.

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Bringing the fight home

by Seth Cooper

Stan Peterec vividly remembers the first time he tried to bring a mixed martial arts event to Victoria almost seven years ago.

"Oh, we had to go through hoops," he said. "Legally, a glove had to be 10 ounces. Those grappling gloves today, we wouldn't have got away with. We had to use Kenpo gloves to get away with what we were doing."

Also known as extreme fighting, ultimate fighting, or no-holds-barred fighting—a misnomer in light of the abundance of limits and rules—mixed martial arts (MMA) pits two fighters against one another in a ring or a metal cage. They can use any combination of punches, kicks, holds and throws to knock out, submit ("tap out" is the MMA version of saying "uncle"), or overwhelm the opposition until the referee stops the fight.

Despite universally respected rules governing what fighters can and cannot do to their opponents—head-butts, eye-gouges and groin punches are off-limits—the freestyle nature of MMA often gives the impression of a brutal free-for-all, which has led to its prohibition in Ontario and a number of American states.

MMA recently made headlines when members of Nova Scotia's amateur boxing association condemned the sport prior to an extreme cage combat scheduled for this month. Wayne Gordon, head coach of the Citadel Boxing Club in Halifax, said he was concerned that boxers could wind up in the same category as MMA fighters, and he likened MMA events to "cock-fights," where the main objective of the fighters is to injure each other.

Peterec, who has been promoting fights for 20 years, had the same experience in 1999.

At one point, he appeared on television to debate the issue with one-time Victoria mayor and MLA Gretchen Brewin. "She was trying to ban the fight," remembered Peterec.

Yet despite the media scrutiny and the stigma attached to the sport, the fight was a success and there have been several more MMA events in the city.

Peterec feels that the claims against MMA are unfounded, and are a direct response to its surging popularity at a time when boxing seems to be flailing.

"The only reason that the boxing guys out East are saying that shit is that they know boxing is at an all-time low," he said.

He also feels MMA is the safer of the two sports.

"If you don't want to get hit, you just grab and hold on," he said. "If you go and grab in boxing, you get points taken off. The minute you let go, it's back to striking. In boxing you take more of a beating."

With respect to long-term health effects, MMA again comes out on top according to Peterec.

"Getting hit by a pro boxer . . . all they learn is the two weapons they've got and when they get good with those things, they'll kill you," he said. "Ninety per cent of the shots in boxing are to the head. And by the time you get good at it, you're already a mess."

PROVIDED PHOTO

Keri Scarr snuffs out the competition in a kickboxing bout.

Olympian boxer Donnie Orr also thinks that the stigma surrounding MMA is unfounded, and that the boxing world ought to take notice.

"I think MMA is really growing," said Orr. "Living in Las Vegas, I'm watching it get really huge, absolutely massive. It's a sport. It's guys devoting themselves. They're legitimate athletes training with a focus."

Orr also agrees that boxing is on the ropes, and that the fans are moving away. He thinks the MMA has a logistical advantage over boxing because judges rarely decide the winner of an MMA fight.

"Judging is a major factor," he said. "Lots of these MMA matches end without having to go the judges. So there's less [of a chance for] corruption. The fans are satisfied because it's not left up to the judges. Boxers, coaches and commissions should be concerned about that because they are losing some of their fan base."

Yet despite all this, Orr remains a purist. And although he feels that fight cards involving boxing, kickboxing and MMA draw the crowds, he still views boxing a distinct discipline.

"If you have to put it together to put the crowd there, then you have to do it. It's going to be a great show, but I'd still like to see [boxing] separate, for the pure love of the sport."

BATTLE AT THE BEAR

There's nothing quite like coming home for Donnie Orr, even if it means getting into a fight.

With over 100 amateur fights under his belt, Victoria's Donnie "Boy" Orr is no stranger to the ring. But the Olympian-turned-Las Vegas boxer is still excited to fight for the first time as a pro in front of a hometown crowd—he's the main event at this month's Battle at the Bear.

"It's a little extra pressure, having to fight in front of friends and family," said Orr. "But fighting [in your hometown] is a bit of a motivator. I'm just excited to do it."

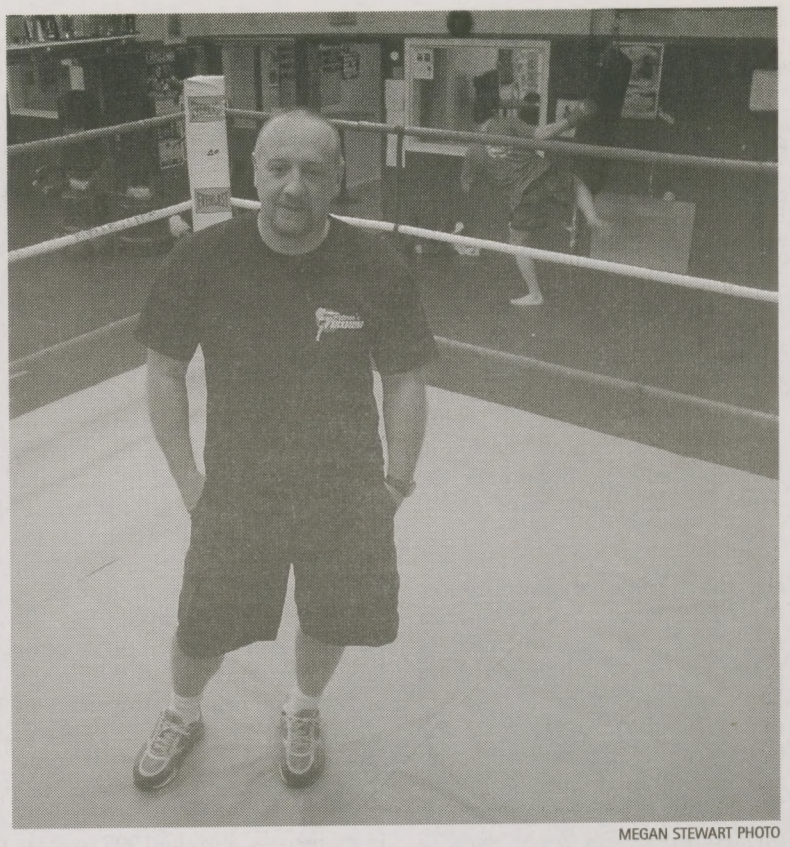
The fight marks Orr's professional Victoria debut after a year spent in Las Vegas training under Hall of Fame referee Richard Steele.

Orr faces former Canadian boxing champion Mark Woolnough. In anticipation of the big crowd, promoter Stan Peterec moved the April 15 fight to Colwood's 3,500-seat Bear Mountain Arena.

Also on the card is Victoria-based Canadian lightweight champion Keri "Crusher" Scarr, likely the most seasoned and versatile professional fighter of the event. This spring she pummelled Tonya Harding, the infamous figure skater, and has fought at a professional level in boxing, kickboxing and mixed martial arts.

Scarr trains with Peterec, who credits the thriving local fight culture for the growing interest in the sport. "Promoting our last fight really helped to sell this one," said Peterec. "[The enthusiasm] just seemed to carry over. I had already sold out ringside before I knew who was on the card."

Tickets for the fight are still available at Peterec's Martial Arts and Sports Traders. Visit www.peterec-skickboxing.com/information.



MEGAN STEWART PHOTO

Stan Peterec first brought mixed martial arts to Victoria in 1999.

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THE SPORT OF TALK

The diplomacy of football

Linked to national identity and pride, the FIFA World Cup may be the most important sporting event on the planet

by Iain Jeffrey

Beginning in June, Germany will host the world's premier sporting event, the FIFA World Cup. Thirty-two countries from all corners of the globe will participate in the event at the pinnacle of global sport.

This summer's competition will see the traditional powerhouses from Europe and South America mix it up with an assortment of teams, some which come from large and developed countries and others that don't. And there lies the beauty of this international event: soccer, and more specifically the World Cup, is a unifying force in a divided world. For more than 75 years the World Cup has provided a meeting place for disparate countries that otherwise do not interact at length.

The 32 teams are divided into eight groups of four, with the top two from each group advancing to a single-elimination knockout round. In the first phase of the tournament the Germans take on Ecuador, England faces Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina goes up against Serbia and Montenegro, the U.S. plays Ghana, and Brazil faces Japan.

The first World Cup was held in Uruguay in 1930. FIFA, the international soccer governing body, led by Frenchman Jules Rimet, put the project out in the open after years of extensive organization. Before 1930, international soccer was limited to amateurs competing in the Olympic Games. But since the popularity of soccer as an Olympic sport grew through the '20s, FIFA made forming an independent tournament a priority.

With the gold medal in soccer at the 1924 and '28 Olympiads, Uruguay was keen to stay on top, and the country's national football association offered to host the tournament. The Football Association of Uruguay promised to share the profits and take the fall for any defects, so FIFA awarded them the inaugural tournament. Uruguay then turned around and won the cup.

Since then the World Cup has taken place every four years, more or less alternating between Europe and the Americas. The tournament was given a miss between 1938 and 1946, but since 1950 has become increasingly popular. Radio and television continue to play a huge role in its success, and the 1998 tournament final in France drew a staggering global television audience of 1.3 billion viewers.

Comprised of 13 teams in 1930, and increasing to 16 in subsequent years, the tournament draws from 204 FIFA member associations that represent nearly every country on the planet. In fact, joining FIFA is often one of the first steps taken by newly independent countries as a means of asserting their sovereignty. FIFA truly is one of the most cosmopolitan global organizations, and the World Cup remains its lifeblood.

Only seven countries have won the World Cup: Uruguay (1930, '50), Italy ('34, '38, '82), Germany ('54, '74, '90), Brazil ('58, '62, '70, '94, 2002), England ('66), Argentina ('78, '86), and France ('98). The World Cup is one of the most difficult tournaments to win. This, along with the aspects of national identity and pride, are some of the reasons why the event is so compelling.

Brazil is favoured to win a record sixth title this summer in Germany. Other contenders include the world's top teams as ranked by FIFA: the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Argentina and France. Anyone looking for a Cinderella story this summer is guaranteed that one of the many smaller countries will play well enough to advance deep into the knockout round and become a sentimental favourite.

The World Cup runs from June 9 to July 9 at 12 different stadiums throughout Germany. With due respect to the tradition and history of the Olympics, the World Cup is unparalleled in quality and global interest. No one will be disappointed.

PROVIDED GRAPHIC

Italy won the 1938 World Cup as the clouds of war built over the host nation, France.

Pink's parody praised

by Megan Stewart

Pop-artist-with-a-message Alecia Moore is challenging Hollywood's fixation with being thin, blonde and beautiful.

Organizations and experts in eating disorders are paying Moore—known to the world as Pink—particular attention for "Stupid Girls," the first release from *I'm not Dead Yet*, the sophomore album from the 26-year-old which hits stores this month.

In the video, Moore mocks the consumerist and narcissistic habits of her fellow pop luminaries, including Lindsay Lohan, Jessica Simpson and the Olsen twins, among others. In a short clip that has drawn praise from the International Association of Eating Disorder Professionals (IAEDP), Moore parodies Paris Hilton and shows the lithe socialite— actually Moore in a short blonde wig—using a toothbrush to induce vomiting.

The video, according to a statement released from Illinois-based IAEDP, "highlights the culture's relentless and unrealistic pursuit of thinness and unattainable drive for physical beauty."

But the program co-ordinator at the Cedric Centre, a Victoria-based counselling organization for disordered eating, said Pink's video sends mixed messages. Virginia Preston said the video and any images of disordered eating, such as anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa, shown in the mainstream, have the potential to normalize the behaviours if viewers aren't wise to the satire.

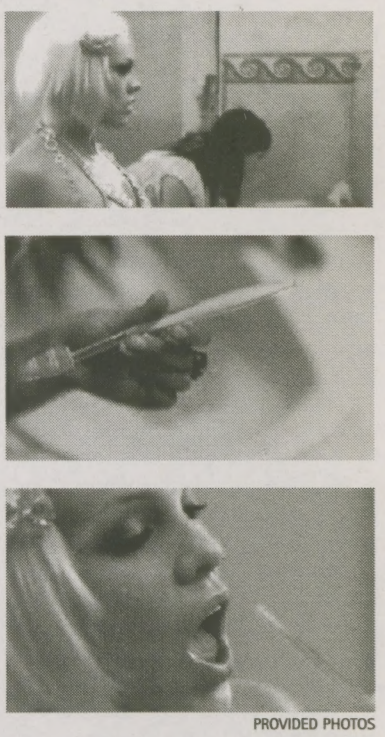
"She's challenging so much of what young women are seeing as behaviour to emulate," said Preston, "but at the same time [viewers] would have to have a certain ability to discriminate what they see in order to understand the parody."

"We elevate [celebrities] to superhuman status like they don't have the same concerns and insecurities. Hollywood isn't any more immune to [disordered eating] than the teenage girls in Victoria," she said.

Globe and Mail health columnist Dr. Marla Shapiro wrote March 14 that almost one in every two girls and almost one in every five boys in Grade 10 are either on a diet or want to lose weight, according to Health Canada.

"It is not clear what causes eating disorders," she wrote. "It might be that a person is predisposed by stressors such as low self esteem or a fear of loss of control, thus sparking the initial desire to slim [down.]"

Reuters reported that Moore admitted to having "fat days." "People often refer to me as fat, and it has taken a long time for me to come to terms with that. I have the same thoughts as everybody else, but I'm athletic, strong, fit and healthy.



PROVIDED PHOTOS

Pink—made to look like Paris Hilton—preps for a night out.

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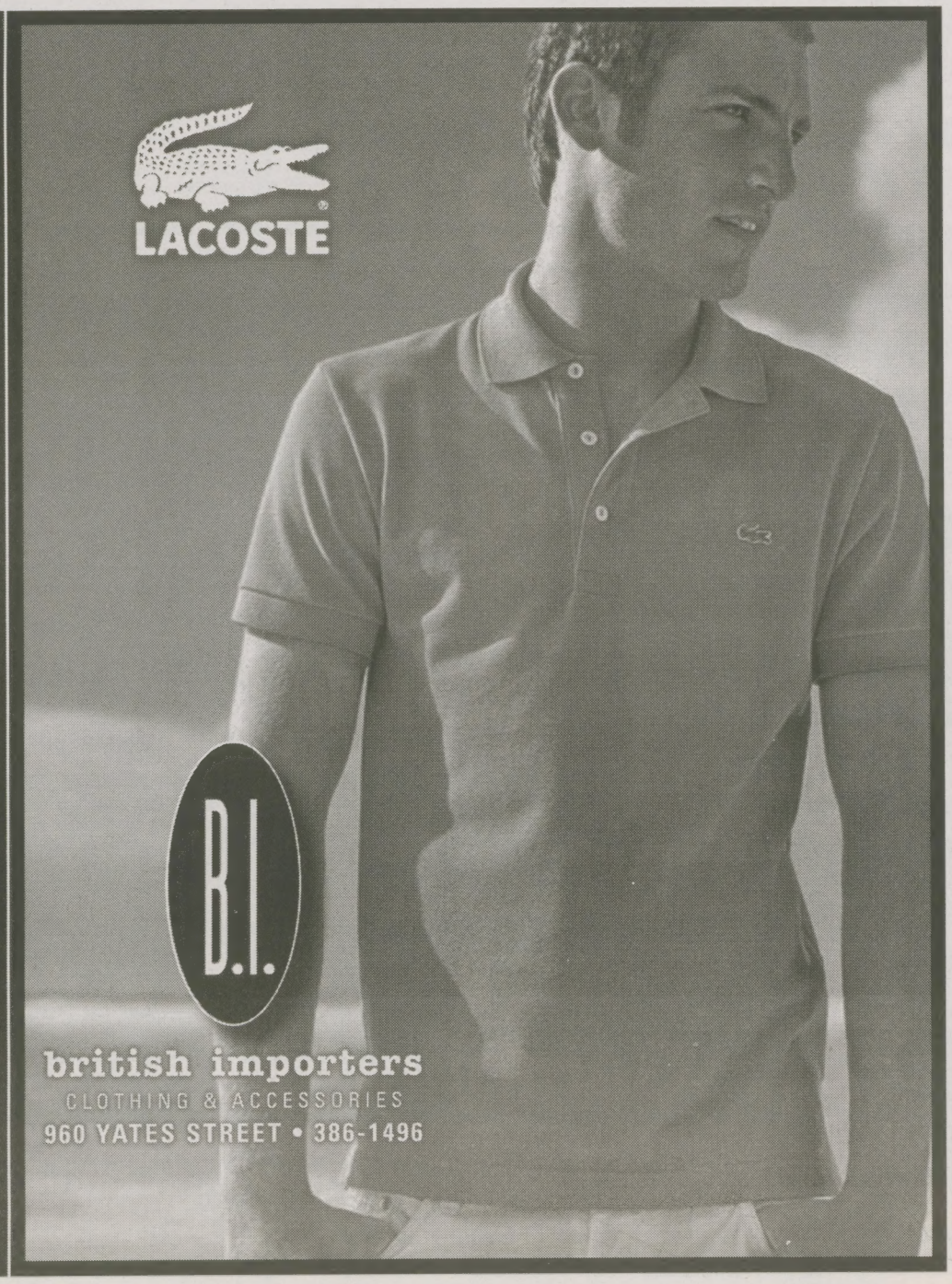

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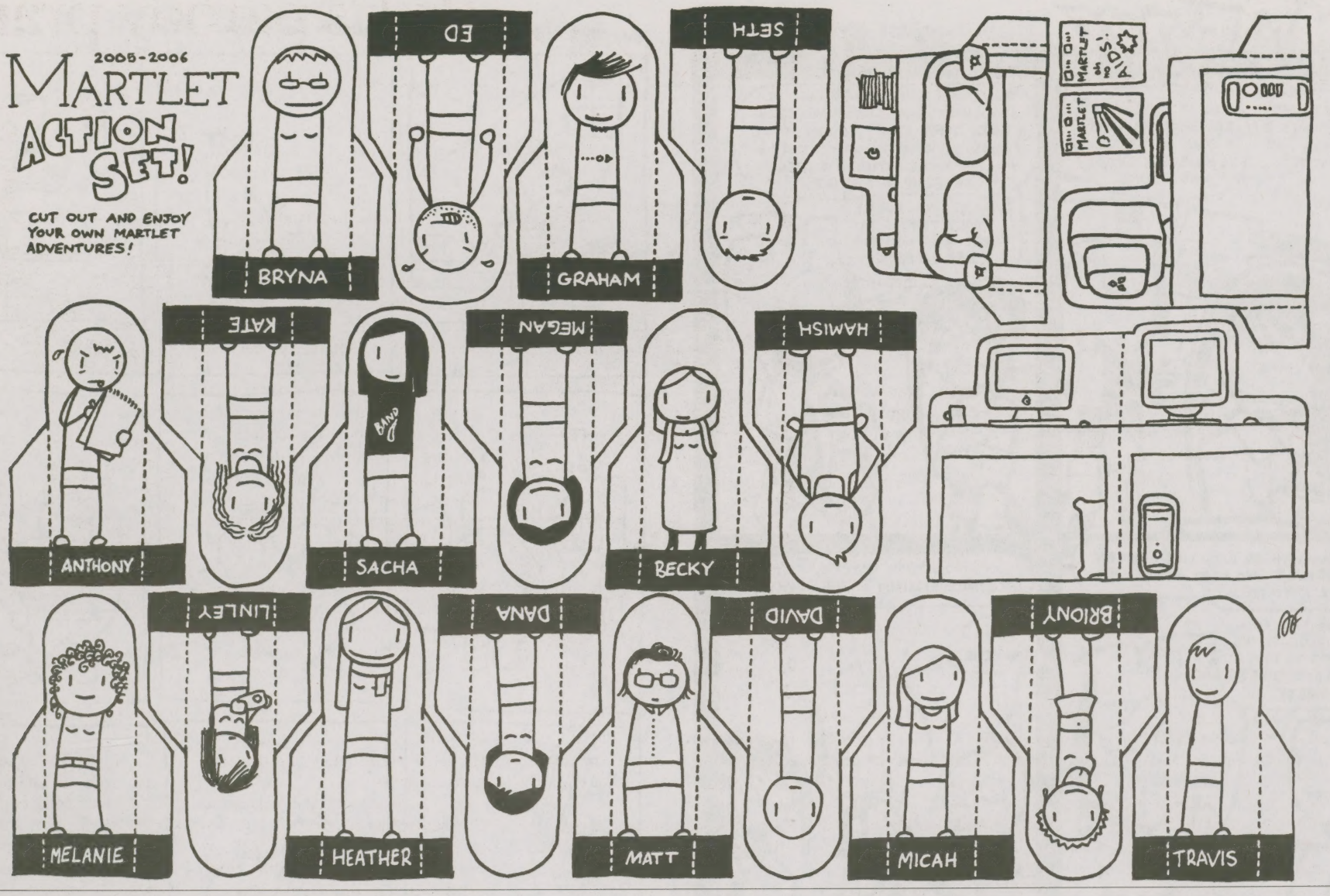

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Seize the moment - new skills, new friends and new opportunities — Volunteer Opportunities at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary—Nature Interpreter with school groups and Nature House Receptionist. For more information call 479-0211 or email: volunteer@swanlake.bc.ca.

BE AN IN-SCHOOL MENTOR
Mentor a student in an elementary school 1 hour/week. Play games, sports, cook, read, do arts and crafts and other fun activities. Call Big Brothers Big Sisters at 475-1117 bonnie@bbbsvictoria.com.

Finished courses? Looking for experience and good karma? Volunteer at Kiwanis House Kiwanis House playing with children while their parents participate in life skills, parenting and pre-employment training creating a better life for themselves and their children. Other options for volunteering too. Contact Rachel Calder at 382-1004 or khp@youthoutreach.ca

ON CAMPUS

On March 1 UVic hosted our first Sustainable Transportation Showcase which directly reached over 300 people. We would like to thank the following local businesses for their in-kind support with close to $500 worth in draw prizes: Bicycleitis, Doug Grams & Fort St. Cycle, UVic Sustainability Project, Mr. Munro at Munro's Books, The UVic Book Store, Karen Anderson & HtO Surf & Swimwear, Tyler Lister & Gerry Lister at Sherbrooke Villages Pizza, and Bean There. Thank you for helping make our event such a success!! – UVSP

Come celebrate the launch of the Philosophy department's undergraduate journal, *Sophia*. The 'Pretend You Have A Real Job' Party is on April 5 at 8pm at the Victoria Events Centre. Tickets available in CLE B325. www.psuisms.ca

A shiny red ball, a golden duck, some bowling action, and wooden bats...It's CRICKET! Ladies, come learn to play with the Wicket Maidens womens cricket team. Fridays, early evenings. More info: mearac@uvic.ca

Come participate in the first annual Heart and Stroke Foundation Dodgeball tournament. April 1st, 2006 at Mount Doug Secondary School. Pick up registrations form at the McKinnon building office 112.

The C. G. Jung Society of Victoria presents a lecture by Traci O'Sullivan: "Parenthood and Mid-life," on the challenges of first-time parenthood in midlife: how we make meaning and define ourselves. April 7th, 7;30 - 9:45 p.m, Strong C-116. Members $10, Students $5, nonmembers $15.

Hey, Computer Science students: take part in the CSCU Coding Competition! Great prizes! Visit www.csc.uvic.ca/~csunion for info.

Join Stu Crawford as he shares stories of lichens and the Secwepemc people who have depended on lichen as a food source. Thursday, April 20, 2006 at 7 p.m.. UVic, MacLaurin Bldg, Rm D-116. Non member drop-in fee: $2. For more info contact 595-5820.

Are you an Arnold Schwarzenegger Fan? I am a visual artist who is asking Arnold fans to contact me with information about themselves and their relationship with Arnold. haileyisnever@shaw.ca

SERVICES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

You are invited to DreamSeed Community Action Gathering! To highlight social justice and sustainability through workshops, music, art and more... March 31st Kick off party Solstice café, 529 Pandora. April 1-2 Vic High. Register www.dreamseed.info or just come by.

Breastfeeding or Pregnant and wanting to learn more? Looking for information or help? Wanting to meet other pregnant women or breastfeeding mothers? La Leche League Saanich/Gordon Head offers telephone support and meets monthly. Our next meeting is on Wednesday April 12 at 10 a.m. The topic will be "Why Breastfeed Past Three Months", but we are happy to discuss any topic related to breastfeeding. For breastfeeding information and location details call 479-6184.

Vic-Y Volkssport has a 10K walk on Saturday Apr 1. Registration is 9:30 a.m. at Henderson Park Recreation Centre 2291 Cedar Hill X Rd. Walk begins 10:00 a.m. Everyone welcome. More info call Joan 477-1248.

The Old Winery Self Storage Clean, Secure, Indoor Lockers. Open 7 days-a-week 3952 Quadra, behind the Keg. 727-2311.

On Sunday, April 9 at 7 p.m. VIVA Boys and Girls Concert Choirs and Chorale host the Kamloops-Thompson Honour Choir at St. Aidan's United Church, 3703 St. Aidan's St., near Richmond & Cedar Hill X Rd., featuring four children's choirs. Talented young people share music of many styles, including folk and classical compositions from many cultures. Admission is by donation to support touring by participating choirs. Call 472-2655 or check www.vivachoirs.ca for information.

Island Montessori Family Carnival and with Silent Auction. Saturday, May 27, 2006 at Doncaster Elementary School -1525 Rowan St. Time 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Admission is free with tickets starting at twenty-five cents for prize venues and games. Fun children games, bouncy castle, BBQ, bake sale and so much more. For more information please phone 514-9391.

Do you have a project idea that would help your community? United Way is seeking proposals for its Youth Initiatives Grants. Visit www.unitedwayvictoria.bc.ca or call 385-6708 for details.

Victoria Queer Parents is a parenting group for members of the GLBT community in southern Vancouver Island who are considering becoming parents, are expecting, or are parenting babies and toddlers. The group meets regularly in Victoria. For more information, contact us by email: victoriaqueerparents@yahoo.ca.

Saanich Recreation offers fun and tasty cooking workshops for preteens, teens and adults in fully-outfitted demonstration kitchen at Colquitz Middle School. www.saanichrecreation.com or 475-5400 for details.

FOR SALE

Pentium 3 Computer System. Ready for high speed Internet, comes with computer monitor, mouse, and keyboard. $140. Can deliver. 884-7133.

HEY YOU!

Love you forever—but I won't wait forever. Here I am and I've got something for you.

Hey Geroge amd Ricrd, it's your other opponent in the two elections we've been in together. I just wanted to say thanks for losing too, we can all rejoice in our inability to get elected.

Bryna, Graham, Briony, Sacha, Becky, Kate—thanks for all your hard work and dedication. Fantastic knowing and blowing you all.

SAM & FUZZY

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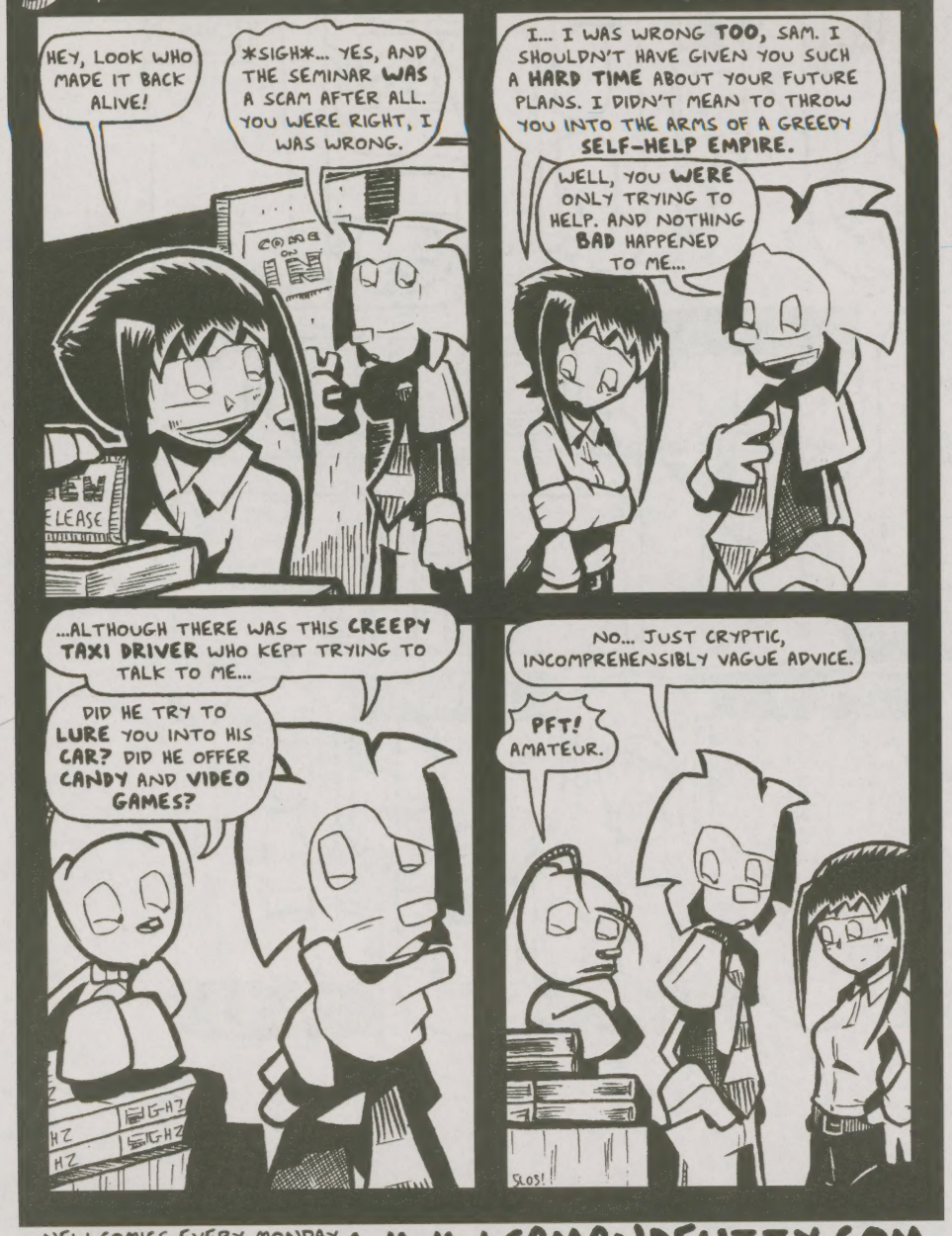
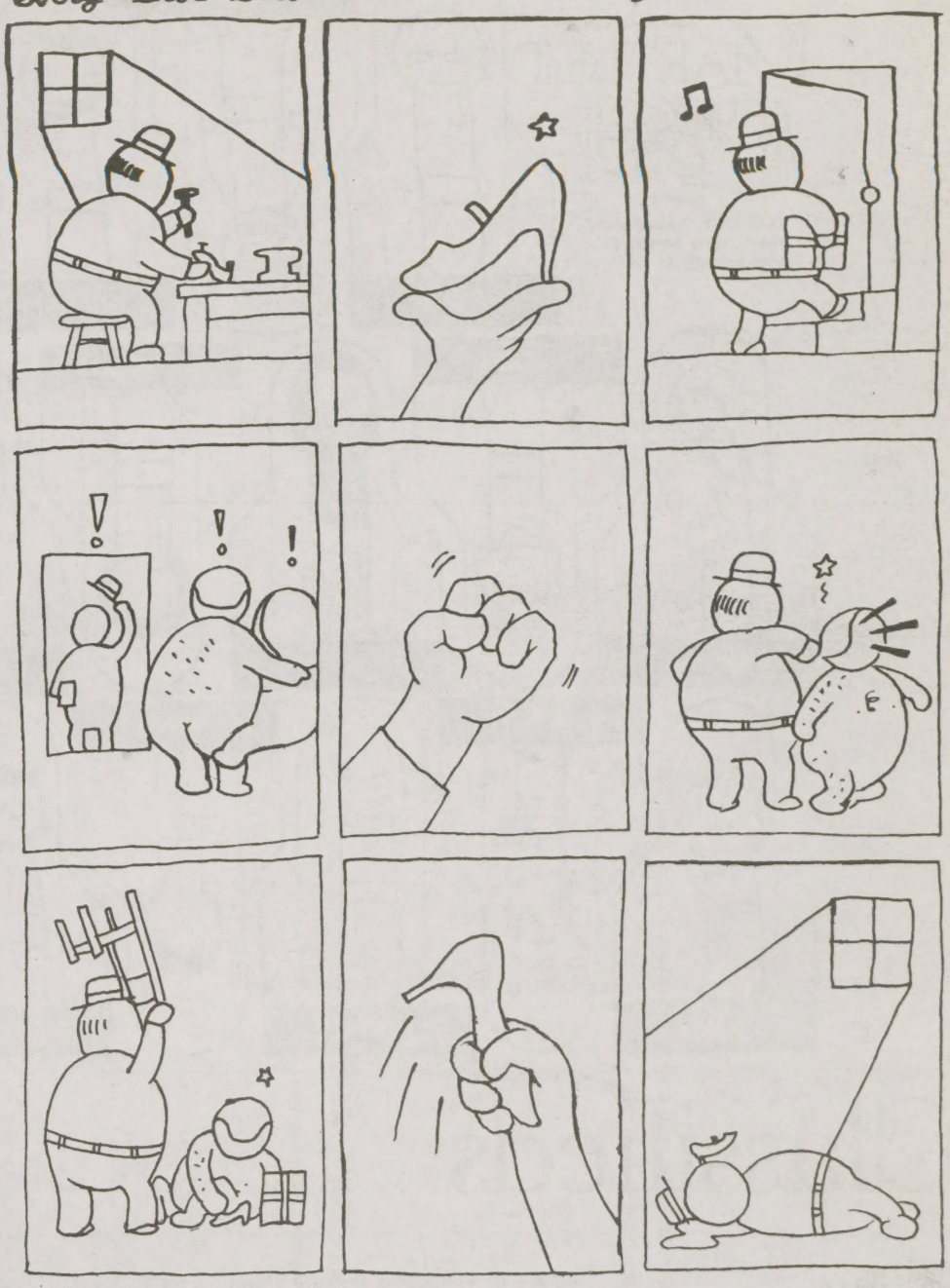
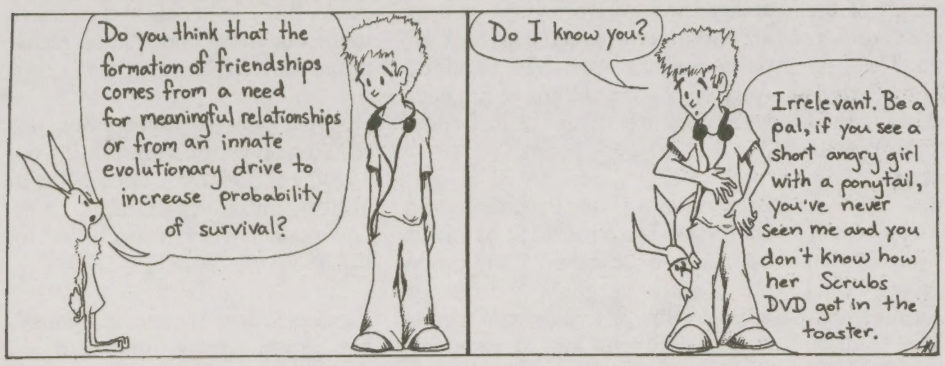

HEY, LOOK WHO MADE IT BACK ALIVE!
SIGH... YES, AND THE SEMINAR WAS A SCAM AFTER ALL. YOU WERE RIGHT, I WAS WRONG.
I... I WAS WRONG TOO, SAM. I SHOULDN'T HAVE GIVEN YOU SUCH A HARD TIME ABOUT YOUR FUTURE PLANS. I DIDN'T MEAN TO THROW YOU INTO THE ARMS OF A GREEDY SELF-HELP EMPIRE.
WELL, YOU WERE ONLY TRYING TO HELP. AND NOTHING BAD HAPPENED TO ME...
...ALTHOUGH THERE WAS THIS CREEPY TAXI DRIVER WHO KEPT TRYING TO TALK TO ME...
DID HE TRY TO LURE YOU INTO HIS CAR? DID HE OFFER CANDY AND VIDEO GAMES?
NO... JUST CRYPTIC, INCOMPREHENSIBLY VAGUE ADVICE.
PFT! AMATEUR.
SLOS!

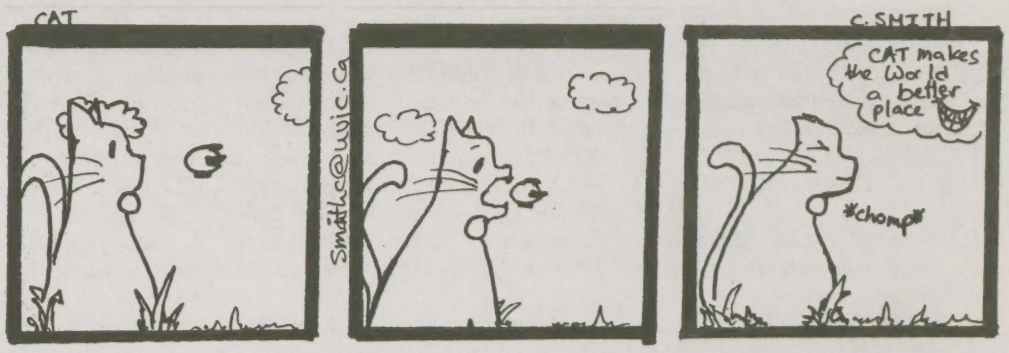
NEW COMICS EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY AT: **WWW.SAMANDFUZZY.COM**

every shoe starts with a love story

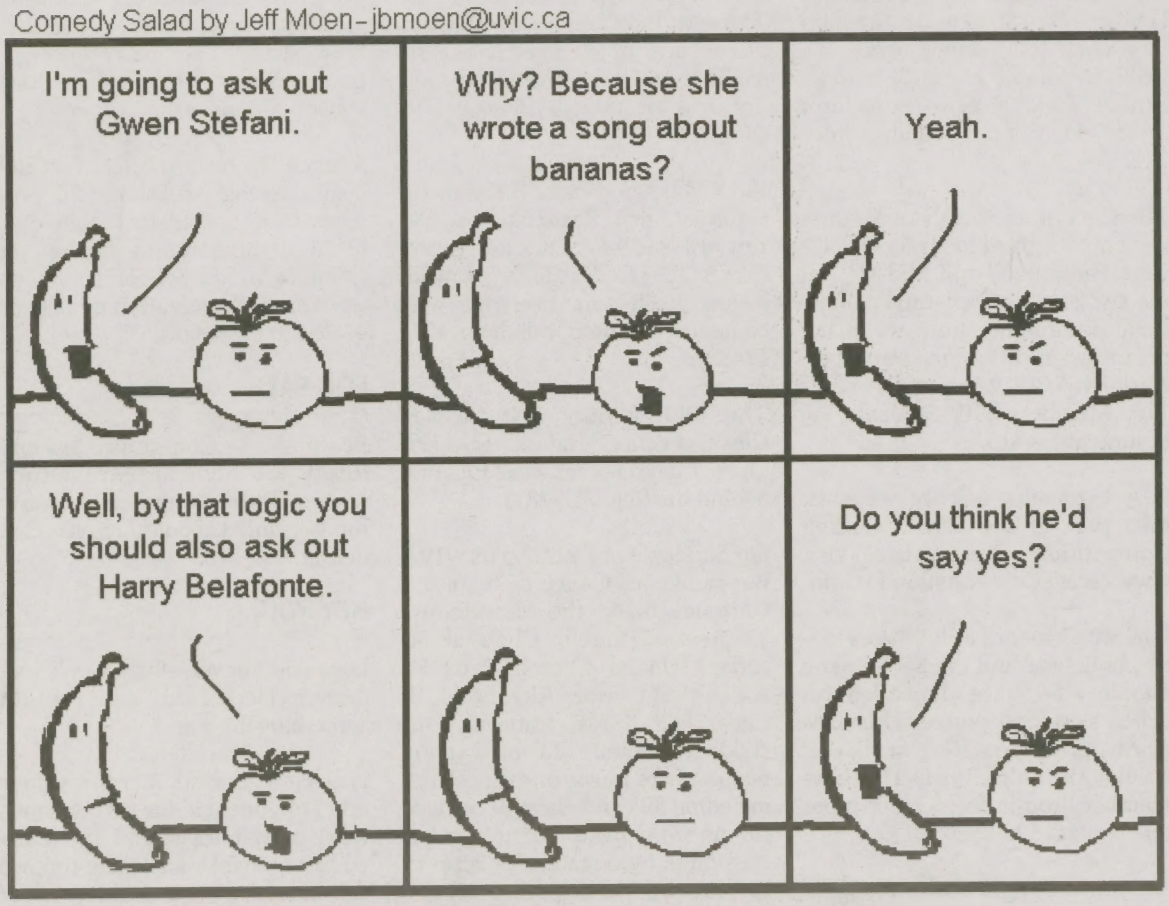


Bunnies by Lindsay Laltoo


Do you think that the formation of friendships comes from a need for meaningful relationships or from an innate evolutionary drive to increase probability of survival?
Do I know you?
Irrelevant. Be a pal, if you see a short angry girl with a ponytail, you've never seen me and you don't know how her Scrubs DVD got in the toaster.



Comedy Salad by Jeff Moen - jbmoen@uvic.ca


I'm going to ask out Gwen Stefani.
Why? Because she wrote a song about bananas?
Yeah.
Well, by that logic you should also ask out Harry Belafonte.
Do you think he'd say yes?